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The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER



Volume XXV Number 3

MARCH, 1935

Sheep and Wool Affairs
at Washington



Administration of the
Taylor Grazing Act



Around the Range
Country

Official Organ of the
NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS
ASSOCIATION
Salt Lake City, Utah

and the
NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING
CORPORATION
Boston, Mass.

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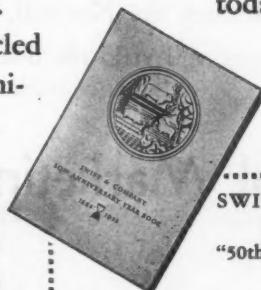
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National Wool Marketing Corporation

281 SUMMER STREET

BOSTON, MASS.

To the Wool Growers of the United States

A decorative graphic consisting of several vertical lines of varying heights, positioned to the left of the main text block.

We fully appreciate the responsibility of marketing the substantial amount of wool we have received, and wish to express our appreciation for the growers' support.

Wool values have not been maintained on the basis we at first expected, due largely to the very complicated foreign situation, which has reduced wool values abroad, but which no one could foresee. Everything is being done, however, to maintain values on a proper relative basis with foreign wools, and there is no intention whatever on the part of those who are attempting to stabilize this market to allow any further reduction in prices here unless forced to by foreign competition, which today seems most unlikely.

While the market has been extremely dull for some time, there are a great many factors on the horizon that could materially improve this situation, and we have no doubt but that all the available wool will be needed. If growers will continue to work with us, and exercise the necessary amount of patience, we feel sure they will be satisfied with our efforts.

The cheap wool that is being offered from the West today is one factor that is very upsetting to this market, and it would be far better for the whole industry if these Western wools that are being offered from there were shipped to us so they could not undermine the prices that have been established here.

National Wool Marketing Corporation

The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

Official Organ of the
NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION
and the
NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING CORPORATION

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CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

Regular Departments:	Page		Page
Sheep and Wool Affairs at Washington.....	5	The Moisture Record for the Winter Months.....	8
Around the Range Country.....	9	Administration of the Taylor Grazing Act.....	11
National Wool Marketing Corporation		Tag Discounts	13
News Bulletin	23	The Sheep Herder	14
With the Women's Auxiliaries	25	Wool Promotion Work Advanced.....	15
Lamb Market Conditions and Prices.....	27	Western Lambs on Michigan Farms.....	16
Special Articles:		Foot-Rot in Sheep	18
National Forest Grazing Fees for 1935.....	6	Sheep Breeding in Germany.....	19
January First Sheep Numbers.....	6	An Explanation of the Grades of Wool.....	21
Lamb Feeders' Conference with Packers.....	7		

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Sheep and Wool Affairs at Washington

Washington, D. C.
March 6, 1935.

A GAIN it is necessary to write copy for this page from the National Capitol. I have been here since February 22. Before that I was one week in Boston on work of the Wool Advisory Committee. There has been no real action so far in connection with the 1935 wool situation. It was necessary to review the work of 1934, and to study the situation on 1934 wools and explore what might be done in connection with the new clip. Final decisions as to what modifications may be made in the Wool Advisory Committee plan for 1935 await better information as to what, if anything, may develop through other branches of the government in connection with 1935 wool prices.

Wool Marketing Affairs

The Wool Marketing Committee of the National Wool Growers Association has been at work continuously since February 25. Messrs. Wilson of Wyoming and Jacob of Utah had been on the ground some days earlier. Very serious and pleasant conferences have been had with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and with representatives of the RFC, the FCA and the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Messrs. Mayer of Texas, Johns of Arizona, and Brown of Colorado, reported on February 26. It was the chief idea and hope of the wool growers' representatives that loans on 1935 wools could be obtained on the same basis as full value loans have been made to cotton and corn growers. The Commodity Credit Corporation seems disinclined to follow this policy further. It is also their rule to make such loans only on commodities for which there is in effect an adjustment program with the AAA.

A good deal of work has been done with AAA officers and a draft has been made of a wool marketing agreement, which would call for the cooperation of growers and handlers of wool in a way to sustain such a price level as might be agreed upon. The members of the wool trade do not seem to be very much in sympathy with such a plan and it is yet too early to say what may develop.

We all hope that matters will clear up and that something really helpful and practical will be worked out by shearing time. Meantime the wool market seems to have been giving a little better account of itself. The supply of wool that was not under the Advisory Committee plan has mainly disappeared and the mills are now buying their supplies in the market. Last week's Boston sales amounted to over 10 million. Some of the manufacturers seemed quite optimistic

regarding 1935 business. The War Department is still placing large contracts and recent calls for bids on cloth and blankets represented a total of 20,000,000 pounds of wool.

Forest Grazing

Our Association Committee on Forest Grazing joined with a similar committee of the American National Live Stock Association last Saturday for a conference with Chief Forester Silcox. Messrs. Rachford and Winkler of the Forest Service were also in attendance. The discussions related chiefly to the methods and policies of distribution of grazing permits. It is expected that by the time this issue of the Wool Grower is mailed, a statement will have been issued by Secretary Wallace announcing a general economic investigation and study of agriculture of the western states, with a particular view to formulating policies and recommendations for the issuance of permits for grazing on national forests and the public domain. Annual permits for forest grazing are to be issued in 1935 and 1936. It is hoped that by 1937 a definite and permanent decision will have been reached as to just how far the government shall go in reducing the permits of established permittees for the purpose of admitting new men.

Administration of the Taylor Grazing Act

Nothing has developed in connection with the administration of the Taylor Act. The Department of the Interior is occupied with the passage by Congress of the amendments to the Act which have been submitted by the officials. The purposes of these amendments are:

- (1) To remove the limitation of 80,000,000 acres.
- (2) To remove the language that would compel the renewal of a permit when its denial would "impair the value of the grazing unit of the permittee, when such unit is pledged as security for any bona fide loan." This language was inserted in the Taylor Act while it was before the Senate last spring. It was then known as the McCarran or Nevada amendment.
- (3) Section 15 of the Act, which provides for leasing of 760 acres or more to owners of contiguous property, would be changed to read as follows: "The Secretary of the Interior is further authorized at his discretion, where lands of the public domain are so situated as not to justify their inclusion in any grazing district to be established pursuant to this act, to lease any such lands for grazing purposes, upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe." This language evidently would remove the preference which the present law gives to owners of contiguous property in the leasing of larger isolated tracts. The House Committee on Public Lands has not seemed to be very sympathetic with the idea of amending the Act before its administration has begun.

Director Carpenter is making his headquarters in Washington at the present time, and it is expected that five assistant directors of grazing and fifteen graziers will be appointed in the near future. The appropri-

tion bill for the Department of the Interior, as it passed the House of Representatives, carried \$250,000 for the Grazing Service. Secretary Ickes explained to the committee this morning that \$150,000 of this was to be used for salaries and administrative expenses and \$94,000 for payment to members of advisory committees on the basis of \$5.00 per day for time devoted to the service of such committees. It was also explained to the committee that applications for grazing districts totaling 140,000,000 acres had been received. The Secretary and also Solicitor Poole stated that the income from the grazing would be sufficient to pay the administrative expenses. Their estimate of the total annual receipts was placed at 1½ million dollars.

AAA Amendments

Hearings are in progress before the House Agricultural Committee upon the recommendations of the AAA for amendments to the Act under which that department is operated. Wide powers for licensing and control of the production and handling of practically all agricultural commodities are being requested. Canners of fruits and vegetables and other handlers of agricultural commodities are protesting vigorously, but the members of the House Committee seem to be quite largely in sympathy with the proposals of the AAA. On one point, however, there seems to be considerable disagreement. That is in regard to the plan of assessing processing taxes on all livestock. It is understood that there would be a tax of 20 cents per 100 on lambs, 35 cents on cattle, and \$1.25 on hogs. The proceeds of the

taxes would be used for making benefit payments to farmers for taking out of production lands used in the production of feed grains and also for handling of exports of livestock products. A committee of 25 cattlemen, which was created last year to work with the AAA, declined by a small majority to endorse this latter program. I expect to testify on the subject when the bill is up in the hearings before the Senate Agricultural Committee which are to begin on March 7.

Wool Promotion

On February 27 I met with representatives of the wool manufacturers and the wool trade for the organization of Associated Wool Industries. This is the setup under which the wool promotion campaign is to be handled. Representatives of the wool dealers collected their full quota for this work in 1935 and presented the officers of the organization with a check for \$25,000. The Chairman of the Executive Committee is Mr. Arthur Besse, president of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers. Mr. Besse discussed this plan before our convention at Phoenix. It seems certain that the manufacturers will raise their full quota, which is, of course, larger than that expected from either dealers or growers. As agreed to at Phoenix, the growers' contribution will be made through collection of 10 cents per bag on consignments of wool or on clips sold at home.

Amendments to the Act governing the Farm Credit Administration were passed by the Senate on February 7 and are now under consideration by the House Committee on Agriculture.

F. R. MARSHALL.

National Forest Grazing Fees for 1935

FEES to be charged for permits to graze livestock on the national forests for the 1935 season were announced by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace on February 21.

Based upon the average market price received by livestock producers over a term of years, the national-forest grazing fees for each season are adjusted upward or downward in accordance with the trend of market prices received by producers in the eleven western states. On that basis, the fees for cattle grazing upon the national forests during 1935 will average 8 cents per head per month, an increase of 7

per cent over the 1934 rate. The fees for sheep during 1935 will average 2.7 cents per head per month, which is 14 per cent higher than the 1934 rate. These changes reflect corresponding increases in the prices of beef cattle and lambs in the eleven western states during 1934.

The eleven western states referred to are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

January First Sheep Numbers

A DECREASE in the number and an increase in value of each species of livestock on farms on January 1, 1935, are shown by the annual inventory estimates made by the Crop Reporting Board of the Department of Agriculture. This is the first time on record when there was a decrease in every species in the same year. Decreases in comparison with numbers on hand a year ago were as follows: Sheep 5 per cent, all cattle 11 per cent, hogs 35 per cent, horses 1 per cent, and mules 3 per cent.

The 5 per cent decrease in sheep numbers represents 2,466,000 head; 91 per cent of this reduction or 2,220,000 head, occurred in the twelve western range states. In that area Texas leads with a 13 per cent de-

CALENDAR

New Mexico Wool Growers' Annual Convention, Roswell—March 26-27

Junior Live Stock and Baby Beef Show, South San Francisco—April 14-18

California Ram Sale and Wool Show, Sacramento—May 22-23

crease, Montana and New Mexico each show a 11 per cent decrease, Colorado 10 per cent, Wyoming 8; and reductions varying from 2 to 7 per cent are shown for Arizona, Utah, Idaho and Nevada. The sheep population of California went up 13 per cent, that for Washington and Oregon 4 and 2 per cent respectively.

The total number of all cattle for January 1, 1935, is estimated as 60,667,000 head, which was a decrease of 7,523,000 head, or over 11 per cent, compared with the January 1, 1934, figures. Dairy cattle account for 25,100,000 head of the cattle total, and the decrease in this class of stock was 1,085,000 head or over 4 per cent.

The decrease in hogs of 20,170,000 head is reported as the largest in any year on record and the estimated number on farms as of January 1, this year (37,007,000) is the smallest in over 50 years.

Numbers of sheep in each of the twelve range states and in other states having a million head are given for the last two years.

Numbers of Sheep and Lambs on January 1, 1935 and 1934

STATE	1935	1934	PER CENT CHANGE
Iowa	1,504,000	1,331,000	+13
Michigan	1,103,000	1,161,000	-5
Minnesota	1,179,000	1,188,000	-1
Missouri	1,247,000	1,189,000	+5
Ohio	2,162,000	2,140,000	+1
South Dakota	1,290,000	1,524,000	-15
Other 30			
Native States	8,731,000	8,909,000	-2
Arizona	942,000	961,000	-2
California	3,261,000	2,886,000	+13
Colorado	2,736,000	3,028,000	-10
Idaho	2,335,000	2,461,000	-5
Montana	3,755,000	4,220,000	-11
Nevada	913,000	979,000	-7
New Mexico	2,460,000	2,757,000	-11
Oregon	2,497,000	2,460,000	+2
Texas	7,152,000	8,179,000	-13
Utah	2,168,000	2,242,000	-3
Washington	752,000	724,000	+4
Wyoming	3,579,000	3,873,000	-8
Total 12			
Range States	32,550,000	34,770,000	-6.4
Total U. S.	49,766,000	52,212,000	-4.7

Lamb Feeders' Conference With Packers

ON Wednesday, February 27, the Colorado - Nebraska Lamb Feeders Association sent a committee of feeders to Chicago to meet with the four large packers and discuss the low price of lambs as compared to other meat animals.

Lamb for many years has sold at a higher level than either beef or pork, but the last 60 days it has been selling for less money and the feeders are losing about \$1.00 per head on their winter operations, owing to the high cost of feed.

The packers agreed that lamb was selling out of line, and they could hardly account for this, unless it was that beef and pork were showing large shortages, whereas lamb was only about 5 or 10 per cent less than a year ago. They all agreed that they would try and boost lamb and get the price up to where the feeders could come out instead of taking another loss. It was pointed out to the packers that the feeders were still about \$2.00 per head in the red for the last five years' operations, and that this kind of business could not continue.

The packers advised that they had been getting a great many poor lambs out of the corn belt which were fed on contract, and also a large number of poor lambs out of the wheat fields of Kansas, which were not as good as usual on account of the wheat being frozen. They asked us to make our lambs good and assured us that they would do all they could to help merchandise them at a higher level.

The feeders also agreed to contribute \$4500 to the National Live Stock and Meat Board for the purpose of printing about 500,000 recipe books and some other items which General Manager Pollock thought would help materially in the sale of lamb.

Feeders felt that their trip to Chicago was successful and look for better lamb prices as the season progresses.

H. W. Farr, President, Colorado - Nebraska Lamb Feeders Association.

A Truth-in-Shoes Bill

THE Tanners' Council of America is backing H. P. 5735, a bill introduced by Representative Fred Biermann of Iowa which, if passed, will make it unlawful to "sell in this country in interstate commerce any boot or shoe manufactured in or imported into the United States unless bearing a tag or label showing the components of which it is made, whether leather, rubber, textiles, paper, cardboard, or other substitutes for leather." The bill does not prohibit the manufacture and sale of shoes made of leather substitutes and does not discriminate between materials used in shoe manufacture, but aims to give consumers the opportunity of knowing what they are purchasing.

New Mexico Announces Annual Meeting

THE New Mexico Wool Growers Association will hold its annual convention in Roswell on March 26 and 27.

Since the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association is holding its convention in Roswell on March 25 and 26, it was decided to hold a joint meeting and combine the two programs on March 26. A very interesting program is being worked out. The Taylor Grazing Act, forest regulations, and financing the livestock industry are some of the subjects to be considered.

The wool growers' meeting on the 27th will be in the nature of a business meeting.

A large attendance is expected.

Isabel Benson, Secretary.

The Winter Moisture Record

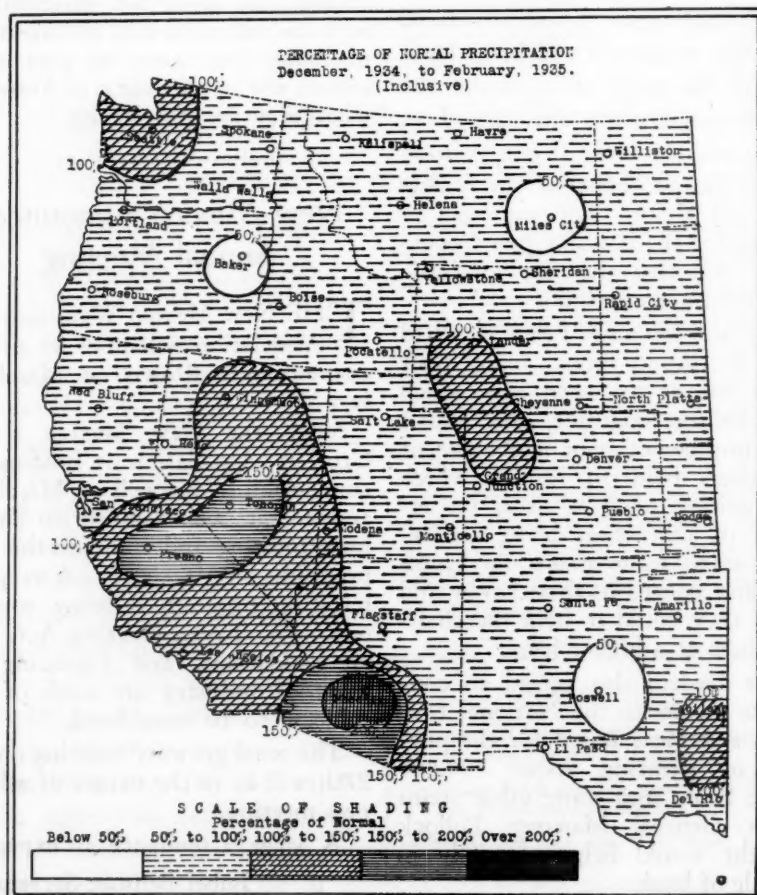
FULLY four fifths of the western range territory has had less than a hundred per cent of the normal precipitation in the past three months, though practically all of the territory had more than fifty per cent. The southern portions of Nevada, California and Arizona are the only outstanding exceptions to the rule of continued drouth everywhere, these particular areas having moderate to heavy excesses locally. However, these are not important spring or summer range areas. On the contrary, spots over the eastern parts of Montana and Oregon, and southeastern New Mexico had less than fifty per cent of normal precipitation this winter, these areas being of more or less importance to range men. All three winter months were deficient in moisture over

eastern Montana, southwestern Idaho, part of central Utah, southeastern Colorado, southeastern New Mexico, western Nevada, northeastern Oregon, and southeastern Washington. December was the best month in Oregon, southern California, and spots in Montana, Idaho, and Utah. January was much the best month in most of Washington, northern parts of California, Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas and Wyoming; while February was stormiest only over central and southern parts of the West-Texas area, northeastern Colorado, southeastern Wyoming, and a strip in west-central Utah. The six months' totals of precipitation show rather gratifying excesses in most of Washington, western Oregon, all of California, most of Nevada, and south-

ern Arizona; but there are major deficiencies in surface ground water supplies over most of the rest of the West.

Precipitation on Western Livestock Ranges During December, 1934, and January and February, 1935, With Departures from Normal, for Three Months, and for Six Months (In Inches)

	Normal 3-Months' Precipitation	Actual 3-Months' Precipitation	Excess (+), or Deficiency (-) 3 Months	Excess (+), or Deficiency (-) 6 Months
Washington—				
Seattle	14.43	16.40	+1.97	+4.84
Spokane	6.12	4.15	-1.97	+0.31
Walla Walla	5.78	3.58	-2.20	-2.15
Oregon				
Portland	18.68	17.45	-1.23	+4.66
Pendleton	4.74	3.12	-1.62	-1.95
Baker City	4.32	1.77	-2.55	-2.42
Roseburg	15.14	12.59	-2.55	+0.99
California				
Redding	19.55	17.70	-1.85	+2.24
San Francisco ..	13.00	12.67	+0.33	+1.18
Fresno	4.61	7.60	+2.99	+5.25
Los Angeles	8.80	8.89	+0.09	+3.27
Nevada				
Winnemucca	3.02	3.32	+0.30	+0.99
Reno	3.70	1.93	-1.77	-1.43
Tonopah	1.25	2.03	+0.78	+0.70
Arizona				
Phoenix	2.57	5.84	+3.27	+2.64
Flagstaff	7.18	6.54	-0.64	-4.17
New Mexico				
Santa Fe	3.23	2.47	-0.76	-1.03
Roswell	1.76	0.64	-1.12	-3.23
Texas				
Amarillo	2.02	1.37	-0.65	-3.24
Abilene	3.31	3.86	+0.55	-2.51
Del Rio	1.79	1.76	-0.03	-0.37
El Paso	1.39	1.03	-0.36	-2.09
San Angelo				
Montana				
Helena	2.30	1.44	-0.86	-1.75
Kalispell	4.13	3.16	-0.97	-0.68
Havre	1.84	1.77	-0.07	-0.10
Miles City	1.78	0.81	-0.97	-2.03
Williston, N. D.	1.53	1.14	-0.39	-1.70
Idaho				
Boise	4.74	3.25	-1.49	-1.46
Pocatello	3.87	3.01	-0.86	-0.52
Utah				
Salt Lake City..	3.25	2.89	-0.36	+0.64
Fillmore	3.78	3.64	-0.14	-1.66
Modena	2.63	2.72	+0.09	-0.47
Castle Dale	2.06	1.55	-0.51	-2.39
Monticello	4.39	3.79	-0.60	-3.35
Wyoming				
Yellowstone	4.40	2.60	-1.80	-3.31
Sheridan	2.19	1.13	-1.06	-0.99
Lander	2.86	2.91	+0.05	+0.27
Cheyenne	1.61	1.02	-0.59	-2.45
Rapid City, S. D.	1.37	1.11	-0.26	-0.45
No. Platte, Neb.	1.45	0.91	-0.54	+0.54
Colorado				
Denver	1.66	1.60	-0.06	-1.54
Pueblo	1.28	0.64	-0.64	-1.83
Gd. Junction	1.81	1.81	-0.00	-0.65
Dodge City, Kan	1.75	1.33	-0.42	+0.18



Around the Range Country

THE notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in Around the Range Country, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of February.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the Wool Grower and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.



Spring Comes Again

WESTERN TEXAS

Mild weather has been the rule. Moderate to heavy rains over the southern portion during the second week relieved the drouth; but the northern portion is still decidedly deficient in moisture, though the situation is not yet alarming. Livestock water is ample, from underground supplies more or less easily pumped. Some spring lambs perished around Sonora and San Angelo during the cold snap late in the month. Livestock are generally in fair condition, though some are poor east of El Paso; they are still largely on feed.

Blackwell

The weather is about normal (February 28), with heavy feeding. We have a much larger number of range sheep getting feed this winter.

About 75 per cent of the number of ewes bred to lamb in 1934 were bred this season. A little above the average number of ewe lambs were kept over last fall. The average age in the ewe bands is about the same.

R. J. Burwick.

ARIZONA

Warm days, cold nights, mostly favorable temperature conditions prevailed. Precipitation was ample in many sections, the higher country receiving good falls of snow to help range conditions. Livestock have done very well as a consequence, and are still improving. Soil moisture supplies are generally much better than last year, with more watering places for livestock. Sheep shearing has been in progress on the southern desert ranges.

Rittenhouse

Weather and feed conditions are fair, better than they have been the last two or three years at this time (February 24). We have a larger number of range sheep getting feed this winter. Alfalfa hay in the stack is selling for \$9.

Not so many ewe lambs were kept over last fall for breeding. The average age of the ewe flocks is older than it was three or four years ago.

Coyotes are more numerous than they were last year.

Leo Ellsworth.

NEW MEXICO

Unusually mild weather prevailed, excepting for about a week, but the colder weather was not severe. Moisture has been deficient in most sections, especially in the south, east and northeastern counties. As a general rule, the ranges are poor and livestock are very thin. Occasional precipitation gave temporary benefit to ranges in most of the state. Livestock feeding was light; and losses were light.

Cuba

The weather conditions have been favorable since the first of the month, until now, with plenty of moisture. We consider the conditions better in comparison with last year (February 28).

The number of range sheep that are getting feed this winter is smaller than usual so far.

As far as I can judge, the ewe lambs held over last fall are somewhat better than usual. I consider the average age of the ewe flocks better than three or four years ago.

The coyotes are increasing in con-

siderable numbers because it is difficult to trap them now.

I am pleased with the work the association has done so far, and endorse its plans for future activities.

J. J. Cordova.

Turn

Conditions on the range are fair to good, and a little better than we have had the last two or three years. We have had a little more moisture. We are feeding the same number of sheep.

We have enough moisture to last until late spring if we do not get unusually windy weather. The sheep have wintered well and prospects for a good lamb crop are excellent.

As lambing was not up to normal, fewer ewe lambs were kept over last fall for breeding purposes than in previous years. A smaller number of ewes have been bred to lamb this year. On account of government purchases, there are fewer old ewes in the flocks than there have been in the last three or four years.

We have about the same number of coyotes as usual. There is no one trapping or poisoning.

J. W. Conant.

Wagon Mound

It is cold here with very little moisture the latter part of the month. The early part was fine and warm. Feed conditions are the worst on record. All of our stock have been fed but about one-third smaller amounts. They are coming through in good shape, the ewes especially so. Fine, open winter has been the cause. We will need more moisture for spring grass. Hay is from \$23 to \$25 baled. We are feeding some oat straw at \$15 baled.

We have about one-third fewer ewes bred to lamb. We kept back about the same number of ewe lambs for replacements last fall. Government purchases have taken out all old ewes, so herds average better in age than usual.

The number of coyotes is about the same.

John U. Hinde.

Roswell

Almost all the sheep under herd are being fed here (March 4), while about a half or a third of those under fence are being fed. In many cases, however, sheep have gone through the winter on weeds and what grass grew during the winter. Last year at this time we had some grass, but this year there is none. Baled hay is costing us \$22 to \$24 a ton.

About 10 per cent fewer ewes were bred to lamb this year than in the previous season; most of the bands average a year younger than they did two or three years ago. Not as many ewe lambs, however, were retained last fall for flock purposes, as it usually the case.

J. M. Corn.

COLORADO

Mild weather has been the rule, with only brief spells of cold weather. Precipitation has been deficient, especially in the east and southeast portions. However, the few snows that came were very beneficial to ranges. Livestock have held up satisfactorily, excepting in the southeastern portion where they are thin, because of poor pastures.

Walden

We are having the same kind of dry weather now that we had last year (February 26), and have a smaller number of range sheep getting feed. Wild hay in the stack sells from \$10 to \$12.

We do not have as many ewes bred to lamb as we had last year, and so far as I know, there were no ewe lambs kept over last fall for breeding purposes.

All the old ewes are gone, and the ages in the flocks range from one to four years.

The number of coyotes remains about the same.

Monte Blevins.

Kim

A dry range with too many dust storms makes conditions worse than

they have been in a good many years (February 24). A dry summer and fall followed by a windy and dirty winter have ruined what little grass and forage we had. All hay is being freighted in at \$20 to \$24 per ton.

About half as many ewes were bred to lamb this year as there were one year ago. We kept about 60 per cent of the ewe lambs last fall for breeding purposes, but they are not of very good quality, as most of them show the effect of being stunted in the summer. The age of our ewe flocks is about average on account of the government's buying the old ewes.

Due to the dry weather and the absence of trappers here this winter, the number of coyotes has increased.

Noah Bishop.

UTAH

Exceptionally warm weather occurred through almost the entire month, only two brief cold snaps intervening to affect livestock slightly. Precipitation over most of the state has been deficient; only locally were the snows heavy enough to bring moisture up to normal for the month. Livestock on feed are excellent, but range stuff has been only fair, without losses of any kind due to weather. Soils are mostly very deficient in moisture at the greater depths. Some spring forage is now available in southern counties.

Indianola

Feed and weather conditions are about 75 per cent normal. There is a larger number of range sheep getting feed this winter in this locality. Alfalfa hay in the stack is \$12 per ton (February 27).

Compared with one year ago, the number of ewes bred to lamb in 1935 is about 12 per cent less. The average number of ewe lambs were held over last fall. There are more lambs and fewer old ewes in the ewe flocks.

There will soon be more coyotes

(Continued to page 33)

Administration of the Taylor Grazing Act

By F. R. CARPENTER, Director of Grazing

An Address Before the Seventieth Annual Convention of the National Wool Growers Association,
Phoenix, Arizona, January 29, 1935

I FEEL greatly encouraged to hear your President say that he has never heard me before, because I was afraid all of you had heard me so many times that I would have nothing but the same old story to tell, and I will admit I have told the same old story over and over until sometimes I am wondering myself whether I am talking about a state of facts, or whether I am just talking about a story that gets to be a story about a story.

What I will try to say here this afternoon is the first installment of a story that is going to be continued, and is going to stop in the most exciting point—just at the point where the hero steps into the picture, and either loses his pasture or returns with his permit and goes on in the livestock business.

The interesting part is that in these subsequent chapters, the first of which will be enacted in the year 1935, you men will be the greatest participators of any body of men in the United States. So that a year from now, when you gather in your convention, and someone gives you the second chapter—most of you will be able to stand up and say as St. Paul said of the struggles of the early Christians "a part of which I was." You will be an active partner, because, grazing history has got to be made in the year 1935, and the little twig is going to be bent in the way the big oak will grow, and it is your chance and my chance to try to bend that little twig in the right direction that it may grow and be what we wish it to be.

I want to begin at the beginning, as all continued stories should begin. I will not go back to prehistoric ages, but when I think of a beginning place for American history, I always think of an old friend of



F. R. CARPENTER

mine, a doctor I used to go and visit when I was going to school. Back of the door of his study he had a map showing the North American Continent. Many times he would shut the door to his study and turning to that map of the continent would say to me, "Carpenter, can you tell me why that was kept hidden away from white men until the year 1492?" We Americans feel we were fortunate to be able to come to a continent where old traditions and prejudices could be laid aside and where we could begin to write on a clean slate. From 1492—when the country was discovered, for whatever reason it was withheld from discovery—from that time until 1776 we were a provincial seaboard country. From 1776 to somewhere around 1880, was the inquisitive and pioneer period in which the original settlement of most of the lands where we now live was made; the second from 1880 to

about 1930 may be termed the acquiring and developing period. The new period in which you and I must live out the balance of our lives, and which began in 1930, and will end no one knows when—I believe is a period of self-appraisal and organization. A part of that appraisal of our land policy resulted in the birth struggle of the Taylor Act. This Act abandoned the theory that the only way to make people happy was to give them a homesite. Hereafter, said Congress, we will deal with graziers, and the only rule for stockmen is one which conforms to his established usages and customs.

I wonder that they never thought of such things before. I wonder that you and I have lived here and allowed our range to be hacked up in this rectangular system of so-called homes, until we have a humpty-dumpty problem today that it is going to take all the king's horses and quite a bit of the nation's treasury to put back together again. We have to pay for our mistakes as a nation just as we do as individuals.

Now the Taylor Act has made an attempt at that problem. Call it imperfect and feeble—it may be both—but I do believe it is the first attempt to scientifically approach arid pasture lands and distribute them in a way in which practical livestockmen can operate and handle them.

There are some features of the Taylor Act which are not novel. The matter of the sale of government lands is merely an amendment to the old isolated tract act. It needs no explanation. The leasing feature is merely a statement of what was done with coal lands and oil lands and many other forms of government-leased resources, and the matter of exchanging those lands has

been going on with states for the last hundred years.

True, the matter of exchanging lands with individuals is a little bit new, and with state land boards, but the principle is not new, nor is the method of doing it very novel.

The part about the Taylor Act that is novel, and has excited the intense interest of the western people, is the provision for administration known as the grazing district. I am glad that Congress didn't know what grazing districts were. I dread to think what anyone could have done with a typewriter that thought he knew what a grazing district looked like, and who had to write—set out regulations for their formation, to say nothing of their administration.

No amount of money in the Federal Treasury that they could have cranked out with the printing presses or borrowed could have ever paid for the mistakes done and hardships wrought on the livestock industry had any one body of men written, or attempted to write those regulations.

I am very glad that the Taylor Act authors confined themselves to the most general of language in defining the principles upon which permits should be given within districts. The controlling part of the law, as regards grazing districts, inheres in seven words when it says that preferences shall be given "for the proper use of the lands." When they say the lands, it is reasonable to suppose that they are talking about lands in the ten western public land states. Did they say permits should be given for the proper use of the grazing lands themselves? If they did, all you had to do was to cut down permits until they couldn't hurt that land. But that land doesn't lie in a compact body, and that land is not now first being discovered, and that land lies in some fearful and wonderful positions, shapes, sizes and conditions, and if we were going to find out what these lands were that Congress talked about, and for whose benefit all grazing rights should be distributed, wouldn't it be

reasonable that we would find out where these lands were? It was not hard to say what they were. They were the poorest lands left after everybody had had their hand in the grab bag and had been pulling out everything that they could, and very distinctly the 161,000,000 acres of public domain were the leavings. They were indeed the culls. But those lands are situated, every acre of them, with two other acres of land, and those two acres of other land are owned, part of them by the federal government in the shape of natural forests and Indian lands, and by the states, with about one-half an acre privately owned. Now were the grazing privileges to be for the benefit of the forest land? Obviously not; they have their own grazing privileges to distribute. Then we are reduced to considering this expanded area of 600 million acres, which includes that part of the ten states that I have mentioned, and which is 30 per cent of the whole United States, and is inhabited by only $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the population—60 per cent of federal land, forests, public domain, 10 per cent Indian lands, 10 per cent state land and 20 per cent private lands. Isn't it more reasonable to say that "for the proper use of the lands" meant all the lands within that area? If it did it meant for the benefit of the state lands, and for the benefit of the private lands, and if it benefited the private lands it would incidentally benefit the people that owned them. And as the character of the lands we were talking about were grazing lands, or poor lands; and naturally not being able to stand alone it was thought that they were to be apportioned off for the benefit of privately owned lands, and that is the construction under which we are working, if you would add to it other lands—and water—because water is a controlling factor, far greater than land in at least three, and possibly five of the ten states that I mentioned. So the first thing was to find out and to construe what lands, and we are now saying it is all lands, and particu-

larly the privately owned lands. We don't refer to the city blocks—but to the ranch setups in the West—they are the ones we wish to benefit by granting grazing privileges.

Now, how do those lands lie, is the second question, if we want to benefit the privately owned lands? Do they lie as they do in the State of Nevada, where six out of every seven acres in the state are federally owned? I sometimes think Congress had Nevada in view when they passed the Taylor law. It is a natural grazing district. Several of their counties are 99 per cent public land. It is not hard to go in and say the 99 per cent will be distributed to help out the remaining 1 per cent. The commensurability by feed in Nevada is less than one-quarter of 1 per cent in acreage of the area in the state. The distribution of grazing privileges can take care of all of that little quarter of 1 per cent in Nevada, and not start to give anybody grazing rights which we have to distribute, but by looking at the stock industry as conducted in Nevada, you will find feed has very little to do with it. In their grazing areas it is water, and we must go into a rating of water for those who control water control range. In the State of New Mexico you have twelve million acres of state land so blocked out as to be nearly controlling of the water. Come over here into Arizona and you find that the federal government in the public domain has about eight million acres of fair grazing lands. The State of Arizona has another eight million acres of a little better grazing land, and private individuals outside of the railroads in the State of Arizona, have another eight million acres of still better grazing land—three tenants in common stand together in Arizona; each controlling about the same amount of land. The question then is whether those three tenants in common can act for their common good, and there is only one common good, and that is the private citizen who stands on the private lands—whether the State of Arizona will, with the federal gov-

ernment, effect a distribution of those lands for the best interests of those with private lands.

You go to Oregon, you will find county owned lands are of a greater amount than state owned lands. Up in parts of Montana the AAA optioned and purchased lands actually control the situation.

In each different state you find a different situation. Throughout this 600,000,000 acres of land the average of crop land is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; that varies from one quarter of 1 per cent in Nevada to 9 per cent in Idaho. The most acute situation for commensurability for feed that exists is in Idaho. And the most acute situation for commensurability for water exists in Nevada. Those are problems which we find. There are some advantages at this time in going into grazing districts, but there are not and never can be grazing districts set up to make good administrable wholes in at least five of these ten states, unless there is active cooperation on the part of state land boards, the state government, the county owned and controlled lands. Those different types of public lands are properly put into grazing districts which can be handled on a fee basis which is less than the taxes are. Why is it in Arizona you have most of the state lands leased? Because you charge $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents an acre. And why is it in Utah you have 90 per cent not leased? Because the minimum rental is 8 cents an acre. When cooperation is attained between these agencies and grazing rights are granted as a means to stabilize an industry, we will be approaching the principal objective of the Taylor Act, which is a part of this self-appraisal and re-organization period that we are in.

Now, gentlemen, we come right down to the actual issuance of permits. That is the part where, as I said before, I simply have to say, "To be continued." This story should be continued, but it is going to be continued in a partnership with the stockmen, and if it fails a part of the disgrace for that failure will be yours, and if it succeeds a

large part of the credit for its success will be with you. There is no need, and it would be futile for me to try to tell you what will make it succeed. Your participation will be valuable and bending towards success just insofar as you can bury selfishness on the thing and go at it in a big-broad-gauged way, and do not let self interest get in the saddle of this wool growers' association, or any other association that takes an active part in this law—just so far as that goes we will have an unsound structure build upon the Taylor Act. That is a challenge, it seems to me, to you men, principally users of the range, and to your association, and it is one which can only be answered as to how it is worked out when the other chapters are written. I hope to be able to be here and hear some of the chapters when they are told.

(The foregoing statement was furnished to the Wool Grower by Mr. Carpenter as a corrected report of his address at the Phoenix convention.—Editor.)

Shearers Convicted of Arson Charge

CHAS. R. THOMAS and Percy W. Sollars, sheep shearers charged with the burning, on August 30 last, of a shearing shed operated on the Daley Ranch near Dixon, California, were found guilty on February 7, after a trial lasting several weeks. Thomas was adjudged guilty on four counts, two charging conspiracy and two arson, and sentenced to serve two prison terms of from one to ten years each; Sollars was found guilty on two counts of arson and given a term of one to ten years.

Four men were originally taken into custody in connection with the offense. One of them, Gordon Campbell, turned state's evidence and was given a similar sentence to that of Sollars, and the fourth man, W. S. Curry, was acquitted on all counts.

Tag Discounts

ONE of the strongest factors to contend with in human relationships is custom. Many of our customs, perhaps most of them, have some logical and intelligent foundation which has caused them to be preserved over long periods of time. Other customs, almost universally adopted for a time soon fade out of the picture largely because they are not based upon reason. Hence the disappearance of hobble skirts and bustles for women, of separate cuffs for men. Only a very few customs, born without the least excuse, are allowed to enjoy old age.

When a wool grower sells a clip of wool and accepts the dealer's terms of 1 to 3 per cent off for tags, he is following a custom which is about as logical as putting a handle on a baseball, despite the fact that the custom is old. The grower takes the discount only because it is custom; because it "has always been done that way," and therefore it must be all right.

To apply a uniform tag discount to all the growers in an entire area is utterly ridiculous. The plan presupposes that every grower is going to leave in about the same per cent of tags. As an example of the unfairness of the proposition, let us consider the tags found in grading four clips, all from Tehama County, California. These clips were similar as to grade and shrinkage, and the grading was all done by the same man in a warehouse licensed by Uncle Sam. In addition, the sheep had been tagged (presumably) before shearing.

Clip No.	Total Wt.	Wt. of Tags	Per Cent Tags
1	11,556	473	4.09
2	8,189	107	1.30
3	16,230	282	1.73
4	32,557	733	2.25

Now it is obvious to a person of average intelligence that these growers did not agree on the definition of "tagging." Clip No. 1, contained over 300 per cent more tags than No. 2. Yet if the same clips were purchased by dealers in California today, both would have $1\frac{1}{2}$ per

cent of the net weight deducted for tags. If a tag discount is justifiable, it certainly ought to be distributed better than that. If it is a logical, reasonable thing to have a uniform tag discount, the grower who left in 4.09 per cent of tags was overpaid, and the grower who took out all but 1.30 per cent was discriminated against. Furthermore the fellow who did such a good job tagging was a dub, provided he sold to a dealer and took 1½ per cent discount.

In Texas, the dealers propose to buy the calculated (guessed at) weight of tags at one fourth of the price paid for the clip. In California they propose to buy them at one third of the price paid for the clip. In the territory section, which includes the bulk of the wool grown in the United States, they have always deducted 1 per cent for tags and they propose to keep on doing it, offering nothing for them. If this deduction is just and equitable, it means that the tags are worthless. But do the dealers who thus get the tags for nothing give them away to the manufacturers? They do not. When the dealer sells his graded wools, they are sold absolutely on merit, and the tags are considered in shrinkage. They are later scoured, these tags given away by territory growers, and used for making tweeds, overcoats and many another kind of cloth. The dealer sells them for cash because they are valuable, yet he gets them, or part of them, for nothing because they are worthless. It doesn't make sense.

If a grower fails to tag his sheep, the shrinkage of his clip will be increased and the value will depreciate. If he does a good job of tagging the reverse will happen. In either event, the tags are immediately reflected, and the buyer has his chance to punish financially the fellow who does a poor job of it.

There is no excuse for tag discounts, but they may be with us for a long time. It's the custom.

J. F. Wilson, University of California.

The Sheepherder

I HAVE known quite a few bonafide sheepherders in my life and I like the breed. There seems to be something about the men to invite friendship. Perhaps they are unusually friendly to those whom they care for because they are so often lonely.

Sheepherders must grow accustomed to long silences. If they are thinking men—and some of them are not—they have plenty of time to dream and ponder. They guide their herds through upland country where the voices of the pines, the wild birds, the occasional coyote, or the rare rattle of the snake are the only sounds they hear save the bleating of their sheep and the barking of their dogs.

Silence and loneliness cause some weak men to go insane. I have heard many stories of sheepherders going stark mad but I have yet to find one who is. Eccentric they often are. But so are professors, doctors, lawyers, married women, husbands, students and children. All people are eccentric in the eyes of all people. How many times, even in large cities, have I been stared and laughed at because I like to wear red neckties and carry books and magazines!

Silence and loneliness are the foods which build the minds of many strong men. The hermits of later ages will go to their caves to ponder the sins of society just as those of early times worked out philosophies regarding human conduct and thought.

The sheepherder has been much maligned. But he has a whole tradition behind him: a whole history from times far earlier than those of the Hebrews on their stony hills. The man is not perfect—who is. He may go a long time without shaving. But, apparently, his sheep do not mind. He may disregard, I say, the Gillette razor blade ads and let his beard grow long and black or red or grey. But he protects the valuable property of his employer zealously and honorably. And his trade has the

sanction of time and the promise of eternity.

My friend, Axel, has been a sheepherder for 40 years. He is about 60 years old now, but still strong, clear-eyed, active. He has herded the woolly animals on many ranges, but he has been with his present employers so long that he has become an institution. I first met him on the spring range in the hills west of Cache Valley. The sheep were grazing below. The rolling hills were covered with yellow wild flowers. Even that early last spring, the range was dry. I asked him if he would not have trouble seeing the sheep through the long, dry summer. He guessed that he would. But he brought them through. He knows the range above Green Canyon as no one knows it. He can place the springs and he knows where he can move the herd to greener pastures if the other ones grow sparse.

Later in that spring, I saw him when we drove up Green Canyon to the last stopping place before the sheep started the long climb high up to the range. We prepared a dinner for him: the things he likes. Roast pork, potatoes, bread and butter, pickles, cake. He was as pleased as a child with a new popgun, although he knew that this would happen. I wandered away from the spread canvas upon which the meal was served and began renewing friendship with the sheep dogs. Soon Axel joined me. I have known many important men: diplomats, politicians, artists, journalists. I was pleased that Axel accepted me as one of his kind. We left the party for a time and talked. He pointed out the long steep trail over which the sheep would pass on the way to the high range. Late afternoon, and the restless ewes were already starting the climb. But Axel was not ready for them to go. A nod to his shaggy, brown dog and the old timer was off. The ewes ran back. Axel told me about days and nights on the range. Bears and coyotes. Wolves and rattlers. And the even greater dangers of scanty feed and low watering places.

I have eaten with these men. Early breakfasts in the crisp, windy mountain air. Sizzling hot fresh lamb chops fried to a delicious brown. Sourdough baked in a Dutch oven. Potatoes, coffee and jam.

I have walked and ridden with sheepherders. And I am going to do it again if I have the chance.

For I like them. They tell me many things I want to know and which I could not learn from any other man. The ways of chipmunks and men are interesting to me. And it seems to me that the chosen ones in this ancient trade understand that in this world all life is significant and fascinating. Solon R. Barber

(Reprinted from Herald-Journal, Logan, Utah.)

Wool Promotion Work Advanced

THE wool promotion program is on the wing. The Board of Directors of the Associated Wool Industries, under which name the co-operative organization of manufacturers, dealers, and producers for the advancement of wool is to be known, held its first annual meeting at the offices of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers in New York City on February 27.

Arthur Besse, president of the manufacturers' association, was made permanent chairman of the organization; Claude H. Ketchum, secretary of the National Wool Trade Association, was elected secretary, and Walter Humphreys, secretary of the manufacturers' association, will serve as treasurer.

The Executive Committee is composed of fifteen members, as follows:

For the growers: F. A. Ellenwood and F. R. Marshall.

For the dealers: Harry J. Blake, Robert Dana, Durham Jones, Robert L. Studley, Herbert K. Webb.

For the manufacturers: Arthur Besse, E. Stanley Bowers, Thurmond Chatham, Alban Eavenson, R. Fontaine, William S. Nutter, Nathaniel Stevens, Arthur O. Wellman.

Authority was placed with this committee to act immediately in or-

ganizing an office force, and it is expected that the actual program will be started within a very short time. B. M. Nussbaum, president of the United Advertising Agency, was appointed by the committee as promotional counsel for the Associated Wool Industries, and that agency will have charge of the special advertising to be done by different groups within the industries. For the present headquarters will be located in the office of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, 386 Fourth Avenue, New York.

Secretary Marshall represented the National Wool Growers Associa-

tion at the organization meeting of the Associated Wool Industries. He expressed the willingness of the growers to do their share in supporting the wool program and said that the growers' share of the fund would be raised through the assessment of 10 cents on each bag of wool shipped by them. A check to cover the complete quota of the dealers was turned over to Treasurer Humphreys by Robert L. Studley, president of the National Wool Trade Association, and the manufacturers' association reported as on hand one third of their subscription quota.

The Growers' Part in the Wool Campaign

AT several of the state wool growers' conventions and at the National in Phoenix, resolutions were adopted recommending that an assessment of 10 cents be levied on "each bag of wool produced in the United States and deducted from the account sales of wool growers, either on direct purchases or consignment," to provide for the growers' share of the wool promotion fund.

In line with this recommendation, a pledge card is being printed for

distribution among growers. Such card is reproduced below. By signing the upper part of the pledge card, the grower authorizes the 10-cent-per-bag deduction. The lower part of the card is an acknowledgment of the receipt of such pledge. The contribution made by the wool grower entitles him to full membership in the Associated Wool Industries, the newly formed organization of growers, dealers, and manufacturers, which is to have charge of the wool promotional program.

ASSOCIATED WOOL INDUSTRIES

Date.....

I/we believe in the need for wool promotion.

I/we are willing to contribute our share towards this effort on a basis of 10c per bag on my/our 1935 wool clip. It is understood this is the contribution to be called for in 1935.

- A. My/our wool being sold this deduction of 10c per bag is hereby authorized to be made when the wool is shipped and settled for in full.
- B. My/our wool being consigned this deduction is hereby authorized to be made when wool is sold and final account sales are rendered.

(Grower's Signature).....

(P. O. Address).....

Date.....

The authorized deduction of 10c per bag on the wool clip of.....

(Grower's Name) of to the general fund of

Associated Wool Industries is hereby acknowledged.

Upon receipt of this contribution.....

(Grower's Name) becomes a member of Associated Wool Industries, is placed upon the mailing list, and as a member is entitled to all rights and privileges of the Association as set forth in the By-laws.

(Agent).....

Western Lambs On Michigan Farms

By DELMER H. LAVOI,
Secretary, Michigan Lamb Feeders
Association



Part of 2000 Montana lambs on feed at the Howard Smith Farm, Mason, Michigan. These lambs arrived October 15 and have had free run of corn fields.

A GROUP of 250 lamb feeders from different counties in Michigan braved snow-filled roads and cold weather to attend the mid-winter tour conducted in Ingham and Lenawee counties, on which stops were made at 20 different farms where close to 21,000 lambs are on feed. These lambs originated largely in western states, coming from Montana, Wyoming, Texas, Idaho, and the Dakotas.

The systems of feeding and rations varied somewhat on each farm and this naturally made the tour more interesting, as it gave those in attendance an opportunity of comparison. Discussions were also entered into at the various stops, where the highlights of each feeder's practices were gone over. Occasionally constructive criticism was made. This was usually done in cases (1) where the rations fed were too costly; (2) where the purchase price of the lambs was too high for the quality of lambs received; (3) where the feeder was loaded too heavily with lambs, for the amount of feed produced on the farm, and in this connection one of the interesting points brought out was the fact that some of the feeders were tremendously handicapped by being required to purchase feeds in small amounts rather than in car-load lots; (4) where the methods and management practices were not

in line with economical lamb feeding.

With feed prices so high that costs of gain will be in the vicinity of 14 to 15 cents per pound (that is counting feed costs at about 80 per cent of the total cost of gain), most of the lamb feeders will need at least a three-dollar margin between purchase and selling price in order to break even this year. A study of 50 feeding records of as many lamb feeders in Michigan for the season of 1933-34 and involving 40,047 lambs, or 801 per farm, shows that the costs per pound of gain for feed was 7.3 cents and a total of 9 cents per pound including all other costs. At this rate lambs selling at \$8.25 per hundredweight last year returned a profit of \$1.79 per lamb, while this year lambs selling at \$9 per hundredweight will just about pay all costs and leave little profit, if they were placed in the feed lot around \$6 per hundredweight. This readily shows that feed is the most important factor in costs entering into the lamb feeding business.

Many of the Michigan feeders are grinding coarse roughages this year to supplement their rations because of the limited supply of hay. Costs on these farms will be higher as compared to farms where grinding is not practiced and where home grown grains and roughages are being fed. Some of the roughages be-

ing ground are corn stover, sweet clover hay, alfalfa hay, soy bean hay, oats in bundles, barley in bundles and other hays. In most cases these ground roughages are then mixed with grain, but a surprisingly large amount of the roughages are being fed when one considers their scarcity. The feeders meeting with the best results in the feeding of ground corn stalks are those who cut them rather coarse and then each day throw out the refuse stalks remaining in the racks. One of the noticeable things, however, is the fact that very few feeders in the state are feeding silage.

Some of the interesting practices being followed by the feeders visited and which have a place in successful lamb feeding are as follows: (1) Shearing of the wool from around the lamb's eyes to allow more visibility; (2) placing of self-feeders in the part of the barn having the most light; (3) the feeding of molasses in troughs and allowing the lambs free access, (in this case it is found that a lamb will usually eat an average of from one-fourth to one-third pound per day); (4) the sowing of turnips in corn fields where the lambs can eat them along with the corn; (5) the sowing of soy beans with corn is also proving to be a successful practice; (6) trucking the lambs from the receiving point to the feed lot in order that they will not be permitted to eat frosted grass;

(7) the necessity of starting the lambs on roughages not too rich in feeding value, as good green alfalfa hay and especially second cutting, has raised havoc with some groups of lambs at the start; (8) the importance of drenching in preventing death losses and in increasing the rates of gain, it being shown that apparently many western lambs are badly in need of drenching as are the native lambs; (9) the necessity of feeding a protein supplement to some lambs when large amounts of coarse feeds are being fed with little legume hay; (10) the advisability of sorting lambs according to size and vigor and feeding in smaller units.

Most all the lambs seen on the trips were of good quality, thereby showing that the feeders had used care and caution in their purchases. Very few of the lambs on feed in the state were stocked under the 50-pound mark. Quality in feeding lambs should be stressed, as it appeared that very few feeders who had stocked their feed lots with this kind of lambs were having any trouble. In cases where native lambs were seen, they appeared to be doing as well as western lambs in all respects, except perhaps they lacked a little in uniformity as compared to the western lambs.

The first stop of this two-day tour was at Michigan State College, where the visitors observed ten lots of Wyoming lambs that had been on feed for 56 days. The experiment being conducted at the present time has for its object the determination of the feasibility of using maximum quantities of roughages with a rather limited grain allowance and also the desirability of replacing one half of the alfalfa hay in the ration with cheaper roughages, such as corn stalks and oat straw. Results for

the first 56 days in these trials show that a medium corn allowance with all the alfalfa hay the lambs will eat, gives better gains than when the lambs have a heavy or light corn allowance. The substitution of oat straw or corn stalks for one half of the alfalfa hay fed has resulted in somewhat slower gains.

Other stops on the Ingham County tour were at the following farms: George Collier, Williamston, who is feeding 1650 Montana lambs on a ration of shelled corn and 12 per cent dairy feed in self-feeders along with bean pods and alfalfa hay; Irvin Wilkins, Mason, who is hand feeding 420 Montanas on a ration of shelled corn, cull beans, alfalfa hay and bean pods; C. H. Forest and Howard Smith, Mason, who are feeding 3800 lambs on a ration of flax chaff and shelled corn in feed bunks in the barn and allowing the lambs to have free run of corn fields interplanted with soy beans; very little shelled corn was fed in the barn when the lambs were getting all the corn they wanted in the field; Collins Huntington, Mason, hand feeding 650 black-faced westerns on shock corn, wheat and flax screenings, cracked corn and alfalfa hay; E. G. Spink and Son, Mason, 300 natives, self-fed, a mixture of ground alfalfa, cracked corn and alfalfa hay; lambs doing very well; Richard Bullen, Mason, hand feeding 960 black-faced westerns on shelled corn and standard screenings in troughs, alfalfa hay, bean pods and wheat straw in racks; William Clark, Eaton Rapids, 976 Montanas, hand-fed on ground corn, ground shredded corn fodder and ground alfalfa hay with bean pods in racks.

The following stops were made on the Lenawee County tour: W. Brighton and Son, Brooklyn, hand

feeding a ration of shelled corn, salvage wheat and alfalfa hay, the lambs having run on corn fields previously; Keeney Orchards, Tipton, 681 Montanas, hand-fed on shock corn, shelled corn, Lamb Fatena, alfalfa hay; E. J. Marshall, Tecumseh, 717 black-faced Montanas, hand-fed on salvage wheat and corn, black bran, molasses treated straw and alfalfa hay; C. E. Burtless, Adrian Fair Grounds, had 3500 Montana and Wyoming lambs on hand, which were being fed salvage corn and wheat, ground alfalfa hay and flax chaff in self-feeders with a little hay in the racks, part of the feed was molasses treated; W. J. Graham, Adrian, 500 Montanas, self-fed ground alfalfa and shelled corn; Frank Engle, Adrian, 1450 mixed westerns, running in corn fields with turnips interplanted and a self-fed ration in feeders consisting of ground alfalfa hay, ground corn, ground bundle barley, whole oats and standard screenings, none of these lambs housed during the feeding period; Henry Ross, Deerfield, 1200 Wyoming, Utah and native lambs, self-fed a ration of ground sweet clover hay, ground soy bean hay and ground wheat with shock corn and wheat straw in racks; T. J. Rixom, Britton, 860 black-faced Montanas, sorted into three groups according to weights and vigor, hand-fed a mixture of ground alfalfa hay, ground barley straw, black bran, brewers' grains, beet pulp (the last three of which were molasses treated), cracked corn and wheat, along with red clover hay; Joe Metzger, Clinton, 900 Montanas, hand-fed a ration of alfalfa hay, straw and corn, all ground and liquid molasses fed on top; and J. T. Clark, Clinton, 700 Texas lambs self-fed ground alfalfa hay and shelled corn with molasses in troughs where the lambs can have free access. Mr. Clark was also feeding 55 steers.

Foot-Rot In Sheep

Bulletin No. 285—Experimental Studies of Foot-Rot in Sheep, by Hadleigh Marsh, Veterinary Pathologist, and E. A. Tunnicliff, Associate Pathologist, Montana Experiment Station, Bozeman, Montana.

THE results of a three-year study of foot-rot in sheep are contained in the above entitled bulletin issued last year by the Montana Experiment Station, with the Montana Livestock Sanitary Board cooperating.

While foot-rot is an old disease, recognized for nearly 250 years in fact, and previous experimental work has been done on it, its appearance during the last ten years in certain sections of the range country, where control is difficult due to the large numbers of sheep involved, led to its further study by the Montana Station.

The experiments were conducted along three lines: (1) to develop further knowledge as to the cause; (2) to find out how long pastures, corrals, etc., remain infected with the disease; and (3) to determine the most effective treatment, especially under range conditions.

Foot-rot develops, as is well known, in sheep running in continuously wet pastures and corrals, but the Montana experiments proved that such an environment is only a "predisposing factor" in the development of the disease. The moist earth tends to make the feet of the sheep soft and susceptible to infection, and the mud getting between the toes creates an irritated area, which opens the way to infection, but it takes something more than wet pastures to cause foot-rot; there must be present in the soil an "infective agent." A previous study conducted by Mohler and Washburn of the U. S. Department of Agri-

culture resulted in the conclusion that the bacterial cause of foot-rot was *Actinomyces necrophorus*. The deduction made from the recent Montana work is that while this is the primary cause of the disease, there is also another factor involved which they have been unable to discover. This conclusion was based on the facts that *A. necrophorus* is constantly found in foot-rot lesions; that pure cultures of it were obtained from lesions on the foot of a lamb that developed the disease after being placed in a wet pasture with sheep affected with foot-rot; but on the other hand the disease could not be reproduced in sheep either by direct inoculations or by exposure to soil that had been repeatedly inoculated with cultures of *A. necrophorus*.

From the second part of the experimental work, that of determining the persistence of the infection in the soil of pastures and corrals, the following deductions were made:

Healthy sheep regularly develop foot-rot when placed in a heavily infected wet pasture, after an incubation period of ten to fourteen days.

Open corrals on well-drained land lose their infectivity within fifteen days, if the soil is allowed to dry, and within thirty days where the soil is continuously wet.

In a well-drained irrigated pasture, the infection will not persist through an ordinary Montana winter, that is, four months of freezing weather.

In a heavily infected subirrigated swamp pasture, the infection may persist from one season to the next.

A heavily infected, well-drained, irrigated pasture loses its infectivity very rapidly when allowed to become dry.

The object of the experimental work in treating foot-rot was to find out which of the several methods of treatment was the most effective and to establish some standard form of application under both range and farm conditions. Tests were made with three medicinal agents: (1) a cold saturated (30 per cent) solution of copper sulphate; (2) antimony trichloride (butter of

antimony); and (3) a one per cent solution of sodium hydroxide. Of the three, the saturated copper sulphate solution was found to be very much superior to the other two and entirely satisfactory in the treatment of the disease. However, because such large amounts of the 30 per cent copper sulphate solution would be required in treating range flocks, experiments were also made with a 10 per cent solution, but the results showed that it could not be depended upon to cure in one treatment. While a 20 per cent solution was not tested, the authors of the bulletin suggest that probably a solution of this intermediate strength might prove as effective as the saturated solution.

The saturated copper sulphate solution was used cold and the results show that it is not necessary to keep the solution hot when using it, as has heretofore been the practice, which eliminates one of the difficulties attending this method of treating the disease in range sheep. The investigators also recommend that the treatment be applied by having the sheep stand in a trough containing the solution, instead of dipping each foot separately into the solution. The use of the trough not only saves time but adds to the effectiveness of the treatment because the weight of the sheep spreads the foot out and exposes more of the diseased area to the solution. The bulletin emphasizes the necessity for the proper surgical preparation of the feet before treatment is administered. The necrotic tissue should be removed and all the affected area exposed even when it involves the removal of a large amount of horn, for, the bulletin states, "where there are extensive lesions, the operator need not hesitate to remove a large amount of the horn and expose the sensitive tissue of practically the whole foot," because "within a week or less sufficient healing takes place to enable the sheep to use the foot."

Copies of this bulletin may be obtained from the Montana State College Agricultural Experiment Station, Bozeman, Montana.

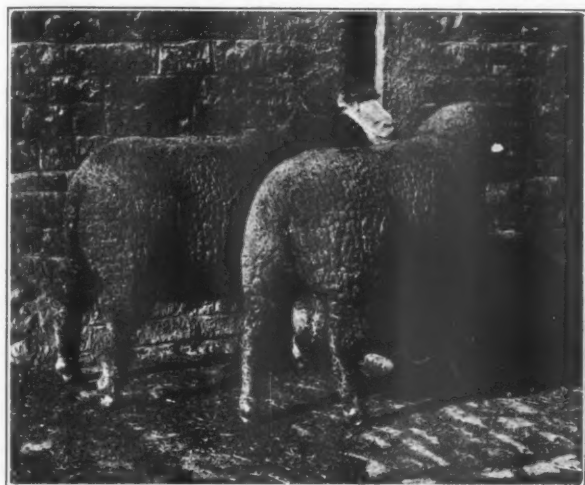
Sheep Breeding in Germany

By ROBERT H. BURNS, University of Wyoming

GERMANY has always been famed for the thoroughness with which her people carry out any task to which they set their hand and the domain of sheep breeding is no exception to this rule.

Before the writer sets down his experiences on a visit to German flocks during April, 1931, it will be necessary to give a brief description.

- (b) Stoffwollige, i.e., medium wool. An intermediate type. A few flocks as in Steiger flock at Leutewitz.
- (c) Kammwollige, i.e., combing wool. The later developed larger bodied Merino which is widely distributed. This is the longer woolled Merino.
 - (a) With A wool (German commercial grade: 64s or Fine Medium.)
 - (b) With AB wool. (German commercial grade below A grade and above B grade: 60s or high one-half blood.)
- (a) Wurttemberg, the most widely distributed of the native sheep. It resembles our western range sheep, being very hardy, upstanding, with good wool and fertility. It originated out of a cross of Merino rams on native ewes and is an excellent grazer.
- (b) Pomeranian. A native sheep of only local importance.
- (c) Leine. A white-faced polled native sheep of small size, but hardy and is found in central Germany, particularly in the Hanover district.



MUTTON MERINO RAMS

Raised in the Province of Saxony. They are early maturing, and easy to fatten.

Photo from Society of Sheep Breeders of the Province of Saxony. Halle (Saale)

MUTTON MERINO RAM 69/23 QUERFURT FLOCK

Breeder: Weidlich, Querfurt Prov. Saxony.

Photo taken at German Agricultural Society Show 1926.



of the different types and breeds of German sheep so that the reader will have some knowledge of the general type of each breed. Of course, the writer was interested primarily in the different types of Merinos. The German Agricultural Society has made the following official classification of the different types and breeds of German sheep:

1. Merino sheep.

- (a) Tuchwollige, i.e., cloth wool, the old type, small bodied, short stapled Merino. Only a few left as in Gade-gast flock at Oschatz.

2. Fleischwoll or muttonwool sheep. These are a dual purpose type and include the so-called Mele or Merino Precoce. These sheep are quite widely distributed although there are not so many purebred flocks as of the mutton Merino. The rams have often been used on mutton Merino flocks. The same general differences in type exist as between the Columbia and Corriedale, the mutton wool corresponding to the former and the mutton Merino to the latter.

3. Mutton sheep. This type has developed exclusively from the English Down breeds and includes the Hampshire, Shropshire, and Suffolk.

4. The Native sheep. This type includes all of the breeds of sheep native to Germany.

- (d) Rhon, a black-faced polled native sheep, native to the Rhon River in Thuringia. It is quite similar in body and wool type to the Leine.
- (e) The Marsh sheep such as the East Friesian Milk sheep and the Wilster Marsh.
- (f) East Prussian Native Blackheaded sheep, developed from a cross of Hampshire and Oxford.
- (g) Heidschnucke. A small primitive type of mixed wool sheep, black or speckled-faced, horned, and with long coarse wool similar to the Scotch Blackface.
- (h) Several other breeds of only local importance such as the Bentheimer, Franken, Bavarian native, Stein, etc.

Only the Merinos and the Wurttemberg native sheep are of interest to the sheepmen of the western United States.

The Fine Wool Merinos

The old Saxony Merinos, which were world famous for their superfine wool, have almost passed out of the picture, as nowadays mutton production, early maturity, and fertility are too important to make a pure fine wool type economical in intensive agriculture on high priced land. The writer was fortunate in being able to visit the only remaining fine wool Merino stud flocks in Germany, both of which have long been famous names in Merino history, the flock of Mr. Gadegast at Oschatz and the Steiger flock at Leutewitz. The former has been bred pure since 1809 when the original flock was brought from Lohmen, the state flock founded from the original Spanish importation into Saxony in 1765. One ram of excellent type was extensively used and consequently the flock today contains a large proportion of his blood. The flock today has uniformly fine wool of rather a short staple. The animals are without folds, well proportioned, but small in size. Rams from this flock have been exported to almost every sheep-producing country.

The Steiger flock at Leutewitz has had a world-wide reputation, and it is over a hundred years old (founded 1805). At the present time a great grandson of the founder is carrying on, but on account of economic conditions is carrying two types in his flock: a flock of 200 commercial ewes of the mutton Merino type so widespread in Germany today, and a small flock of 100 ewes of the old type Saxony Merino. This flock has used considerable French Merino and Rambouillet blood, and consequently the sheep are larger and slightly coarser in wool than the Gadegast flock. In fact, the Gadegast flock today is the only representative of the Tuch wool (cloth wool) type of Merino in Ger-

many, while the Steiger flock is classed in the next class, Stoff wool (medium wool) type of Merino.

The Mutton Merinos

The mutton Merino type is a natural development from the older combing wool type of Merino which was in favor from the years 1880 to 1900. In fact, the two names are used synonymously today. A great many French Merinos have been used in the development of this type. The soil and feed conditions in France have produced a very good mutton type of Merino, well grown, with long, medium fine wool, and the German breeders have repeatedly gone to France to replenish their breeding stock. The French did not hesitate to crossbreed with English mutton breeds at an early date, and consequently, because of their climatic and soil conditions as well, they have developed a number of excellent mutton type Merinos such as the Isle-de-France (Dishley Merino), Rambouillet, Soissonnois, Châtillonnais, Charmoise, and Berrichaune. The mutton Merino type is medium to large in size, has excellent conformation, and leg-of-mutton development, and carries a long stapled fleece of 64s to 60s quality (low fine to high $\frac{1}{2}$ blood). The fleece weighs around 10 to 12 pounds for ewes, and 12 to 16 pounds for the rams. It is a light shrinking wool of uniform quality.

Some of the German mutton flocks have a large proportion of Dishley Merino (Isle-de-France) blood, but the Dishley blood, although giving a very good mutton conformation, do not mature as early and are more leggy than the mutton Merino.

The Mutton Wool Sheep

The mutton wool sheep, formerly called Mele or Merino Precocé, is a result of crossing the Merino combing wool type ewes with Border Leicester rams. This crossing took place about 1900 and the present uniformity of both body and wool type, as well as fertility and early maturity, is quite remarkable. The

writer spent a few days at Neuenkirchen, the home of this breed, and had some very interesting times going over the sale rams with Messrs. Thilo and Schroeder. The former is the breeding director and founder of the breed, while the latter is the proprietor of the farm. A finer group of sale rams would be very, very difficult to find. One often hears the expression "as like as peas in a pod." These rams at Neuenkirchen fulfilled the requirements of that expression. One would not believe it possible that such heavy bodies, grand wide loins, and a leg of mutton that looked as full as the best ham of a prize porker, could be combined with such other desirable characters as a half-blood quality fleece weighing 14 pounds, yielding 45 per cent, a fertility of 125 per cent lambs raised and lambs that gain around a pound for every day of their life.

The sale rams at 18 months of age weighed from 200 to 210 pounds. The mature ewes weigh from 130 to 180 pounds, and mature rams from 200 to 250 pounds. The ewes reach maturity earlier, and during the past three years ewe lambs have been bred at 10 months of age without any appreciable decrease in size or fertility. The lambs weigh 60 pounds at 60 days of age, a gain of a pound a day, which compares favorably with the most thrifty mutton breeds. A leading mutton Merino flock reports the following lamb weights at 100 days of age: Singles 86 to 110 pounds and twins 66 to 77 pounds. Such a combination of desirable characters in a true breeding type is indeed a monument to the judgment and skill of the breeder. And such an ideal has been attained not only at Neuenkirchen but in numerous flocks throughout Germany, although the methods and results vary slightly. However, Neuenkirchen was the pioneer in crossbreeding to attain slightly more size and still retain the other desirable characters for mutton and wool production in about the ratio of 60 per cent preference to mutton and 40 per cent to wool.

The system of management at Neuenkirchen is similar to that of most of the other flocks in northern and central Germany. The sheep are on pasture from April to December and are kept in the stable during the three winter months, where they are fed alfalfa or grain straw, some grain, oil cake, and some silage occasionally.

In closing, the writer would like to mention the Wurttemberg native sheep, a breed which is widely distributed throughout southern Germany. This breed originated from a cross of two types of native sheep with Merinos and, as heretofore mentioned, is not dissimilar in type to the finer crossbred sheep of our western ranges. The ewes breed at 1½ years of age, and thus lamb very early in the season. The lambing per cent is about 125, and the lambs born early in the year find a ready market as Easter lambs at a weight of about 100 pounds. The fleeces weigh about 10 pounds with a shrinkage of 50 to 55 per cent and grade 58s (½ blood). This breed is quite hardy and grazes on the high mountain pastures a good portion of the year, and, as a breeder at Munich told the writer, "they lamb in the snow." They do not have the excellence or uniformity of mutton form and wool character found in the mutton Merino and mutton wool breeds, but are a hardier race.

Coyotes Troublesome

WE have been troubled a great deal with the coyotes. They are very numerous in this section and something will have to be done about it before summer or we will suffer heavy losses in our herds. There have been no trappers in our section this winter. We thought perhaps it would be well if the government would make a project on the FERA work for trapping and poisoning coyotes. I think it would be well for the wool growers' associations to take it up and see what can be done about it.

The weather conditions for sheep

in this district have been very good. There has been a great deal of moisture and the ewe lambs are coming off the desert in nice shape with a good growth of wool, and it is probable that the grown sheep will average 1½ or 2 pounds more wool than last year. There are about 40 per

cent fewer sheep in the country this year, due to the heavy loss two years ago and the culling of old ewes which were sold to the government last summer. I believe there will be a good lamb crop this spring if the conditions are right.

J. C. Riordan, Lund, Nevada.

An Explanation of the Grades of Wool

By J. F. WILSON, University of California

IN reading market reports, the wool grower often sees prices quoted on half-blood or three-eighths blood or some other fraction of "blood." Or he may read that 64's (pronounced sixty fours) are worth so much while 56's are worth less on a clean basis. So many growers do not fully understand these terms that an explanation may be appreciated.

Many of the agricultural commodities are graded before they are sold, although in many cases grading is done only to bring a better price, or to help sales by putting up a more attractive package. For instance, prunes. Prunes are nearly always graded yet there is only one thing which can be done to any of the many grades and that is to eat them. Little prunes are usually just as good as big ones of the same variety and cure and always just as nutritious pound for pound. Prune grading is done, therefore, simply because the public is willing to pay a higher price for big prunes separated from little ones. Not so with wool. Wool has to be graded in order that the manufacturer can use it. In making any kind of yarn for any purpose, if the grades of wool were mixed up, a great deal of trouble would be sure to follow because the mixed grades would not work well in the machines. It would result in breakage, slow production, uneven yarn and a poor product. A carpet manufacturer who put fine wool into a carpet would ruin it, while the manufacturer of a piece of lightweight worsted for men's wear could never use carpet wool.

The raw material therefore must be graded in order to allow the manufacturer to secure the kind of wool he wants for a particular kind of yarn.

Now that we understand the absolute necessity of different wool grades, let us see how the operation is carried on. The grader takes a lock or staple of wool from a fleece and examines it. He is looking primarily to see how fine the wool is, or in other words, the average thickness of the individual fibers. He has had so much experience over so many years that he does not have to place the sample alongside a standard. He knows by looking at it that it is about a certain fineness and calls it, let us say, a half-blood. That term means only that the wool is a little too coarse to be called *fine*. The grader takes several of these small staples from different parts of the same fleece. If they seem to be about the same fineness he determines that the entire fleece shall be graded as half-blood. While he is examining the small locks for fineness, however, he tests each one for strength, and also for length. If the fleece which is half-blood in fineness is long enough to comb it is called half-blood *combing* or half-blood *staple* and commands a premium in price. If it is too short to comb economically it is called half-blood *clothing* and sells at a discount. Thus wool of any grade may be combing or clothing, depending on its length. Weak wools no matter how long they are all called clothing because only strong wools are combed.

The term half-blood is one of seven terms which until a few years ago were all we had to describe the different degrees of fineness of American wools. Starting with the finest of these "old style" grades there were seven different grades as follows:

1. Fine,
2. Half-blood
3. Three-eighths-blood
4. Quarter-blood
5. Low quarter-blood
6. Common
7. Braid

And remember that within each of these we have combing and clothing classifications. We seldom if ever see quotations for low quarter, common or braid clothing wool because the coarser the wool is the longer it is, and these three coarsest grades are nearly always of combing length. The names of the grades as given above have no meaning whatever and are quite misleading to many growers. One would suppose that half-blood wool comes from sheep that are half one breed and half another but not so. The names have no reference at all to breed, or blood. In fact, "common" is not very common in the U. S. A. and "braid" is used only a very little for making braids. Manufacturers did not like these old style grade names because, believe it or not, there are not enough grades under this system to take care of their needs. Some of them found it necessary to use such terms as "high half-blood," "high three-eighths-blood," and so on, and further complicate an already complicated set of names. Now the English and Australians and South Africans have another scheme of things and have twelve grades instead of seven. These grade names are simply numbers which roughly and approximately describe the amount of yarn which can be made from a pound of combed wool of that particular fineness. The system is so sensible that it has been adopted by many of our manufacturers and dealers and has been officially recognized and approved by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

These new grades, based on the "spinning count" of the wool will probably in time do away with the old "blood" system, although right now we must suffer the agony of having both methods. Both systems are of course based on the fineness of the wool. The names of the grades in the later, or English system, and the old "blood" names which correspond to them are as follows, with the finest at the top:

(1)	80's	} Fine (1)
(2)	70's	
(3)	64's	
(4)	60's	} Half-blood (2)
(5)	58's	
(6)	56's	Three-eighths blood (3)
(7)	50's	} Quarter-blood (4)
(8)	48's	
(9)	46's	Low quarter-blood (5)
(10)	44's	Common (6)
(11)	40's	} Braid (7)
(12)	36's	

It is difficult enough, even for a wool specialist to remember these figures and most wool growers do not have time to memorize them on account of other duties. There is an easy way, though, of remembering enough of the figures to help out a good deal in interpreting market reports. Here it is. Rambouillet sheep nearly all grow 64's or finer; most Hampshires grow 56's or three-eighths blood; most Lincolns and Cotswolds produce 36's and 40's or braid. The other breeds fall in between. These four breeds, Rambouillets, Hampshires, Lincolns and Cotswolds are all popular in the West and they furnish the top, middle and bottom grades under both systems of grading.

In actual practice in wool warehouses there may be other things to consider in grading besides fineness, length and strength. A fleece may be a 64's, for instance, plenty long enough to comb and strong, but suppose it is exceptionally dark yellow in color, gummy and much heavier in shrink than the bulk. Such a fleece would be called an "off" and not graded according to fineness and length. Similarly a fleece showing great variation in fineness between the shoulder and other parts would

be put into the next lower grade than the shoulder, side or neck samples indicate. "Line" fleeces, or those which are half way between two grades may be placed in either depending on demand. Sometimes a fleece showing remarkably good character may be put in the next higher grade.

For a brief review of this story we would say that:

1. Wool must be graded before use.
2. There are two sets of grade names, the seven old style or "blood" grades and the twelve newer English or spinning count grades.
3. The new system will probably squeeze out the old one eventually because it is more sensible and useful.
4. Wool is graded by fineness of fiber and length.

Coyote Bounty Suggested

COYOTES in this part of New Mexico are on the up, because there are few private trappers at work and the Biological Survey has had its appropriations greatly curtailed. The range is literally overrun with them and sheep in many localities are in danger of raids day and night. Some of the men are corralling their sheep at nights to avoid loss by coyotes.

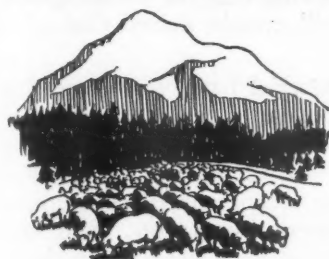
There is a movement here to have the state bounty system restored. With its reduced funds, the Biological Survey is unable to make any showing. They need ten field men where they have only one. Furs are too cheap for trappers and have been for the past two seasons, so there has been little or no trapping for several years. With a state bounty, it is felt that the situation would be corrected, for trappers would be out the year round for a bounty. In this way also more work would be created for the unemployed.

Bobcats are also on the increase and are doing some killing.

Jess Corn, Roswell, N. M.

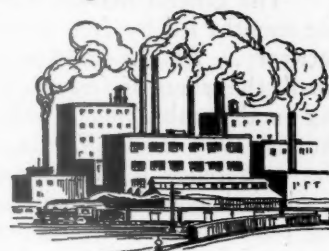
The National Wool Marketing Corporation

News Bulletin



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GROWER OWNED AND OPERATED



FEBRUARY was a month of constructive developments in wool which can be fairly evaluated as indicating a more promising position for the raw material in the months to come. In the early part of the month wool promotion came to the fore and received good and sound endorsements from producing, merchandising and manufacturing interests. Around the middle of the month concerted agreement of wool houses in the government setup, in conjunction with the Wool and Mohair Advisory Committee, remedied a somewhat long standing and disorderly price situation and at the same time placed domestic wools on a basis that would protect the native grower from impending encroachments of lower-priced foreign combing and clothing wools.

Near the end of February the Associated Wool Industries, instituted to promote a larger national use of wool, elected its permanent officials and an executive committee made up of wool growers, wool dealers and wool manufacturers. Wool buying, which had been very restricted, took a sudden surge forward. The sales of wool in the grease during the closing week aggregated the largest volume in any week since the fall of 1933. Large government contracts likewise made a heavy call on pulled and scoured wools.

Mills at the beginning of March were generally behind on their deliveries. Current and prospective conditions in the industry continue favorable from the point of activity and demand. Sellers, however, are taking a rather negative attitude toward early business for the fall. It is felt that attention can be centered on production of spring and summer lines of fabric for some time to come and that the current promising business might be disturbed by considerations of prices and construction for another season in the midst of the present active movement.

While waiting for new activity to develop most mills continue active on the production and delivery of the broad volume of orders received earlier in the season. The price situation in men's wear fabrics is firm. The adjustment of wool prices, being a change from merely nominal prices in controlled grades of staple, made no real change in values, so buyers of goods were not able to use it as an effective club for new concessions.

Most houses here are confident of a firm to stable market in wool for some time to come. Wool growing interests are active in Washington at this time and are seeking to tie up the 1935 clip more directly with government agencies. A policy for handling the new clip is in the making and some announcement by the Wool and Mohair Advisory Committee is expected in the near future.

Announcement of the gold-clause decision and concerted action of the wool trade in establishing a more uniform and definite basis for wool have combined to remove a large measure of uncertainty from the wool industry and cleared the way for a resumption of good business. There is a general feeling of relief that a reasonable basis has been established, the decline checked and domestic wools placed strategically in relation to threatened wool imports.

Long-standing obstacles to a more equitable method of trading have been removed by the recent agreement of the wool conference in adjusting the very irregular price situation to a more uniform and sensible basis. All that the conference did was to recognize officially the level of values which had been in force for two or three months and upon which basis government wools may now be sold. High nominal prices, quite unconfirmed by any buying, have disappeared and a uniform line of quotations with promise of much stability are now a feature of the market. An impossible situation has been cleared up and the atmosphere is brighter.

The action of the conference in officially recognizing prevailing open market prices as agreeable to those in charge of the orderly merchandising of government-mortgaged wools dispelled considerable uncertainty and removed some of the practical hindrances standing in the way of a freer and fairer movement of wool among wool dealers. Wool prices are not actually lower than they were a month ago, but they reflect the decline of recent months. Any statement that wool prices have been cut 10 per cent would be misleading. The conference did little else than validate as official the prices of territory and similar wools that had been in force and confirmed by mill purchasing during the past two or three months. What the conference actually achieved was not so much a revision of prices as

a recognition and adoption of current rates as valid for the sale of government wools.

The general market had been tending downward for months led by free wools—fleece, Texas and some territory. As the 1934 mill demand was unusually small, the sellers of free wools had much to do in making and establishing a selling basis well below the August 1934 level. Very early in the deliberations of the conference it became apparent that the foreign wool markets had gradually eased into a rather menacing position and that comparative values to manufacturers of domestic and foreign fine wools were too close together. Higher prices on domestic wools were obviously out of the question. Little else could be done than recognize that nominally high asking prices of government mortgaged wools were out dated and that the prevailing market level was in reality the real front line trench for all parties concerned.

Although the market has been adjusted to a condition more favorable to an orderly disposal of the unsold surplus of the 1934 clip, it is more or less of an open question whether domestic wool growers will be satisfied to have their new wool pass over for marketing in prevailing restricted setup. Much has yet to be ironed out and the Wool and Mohair Advisory Committee, fully cognizant of the difficulties of the situation, is not yet prepared to make any definite recommendations to the Farm Credit Administration regarding the handling of the 1935 clip.

The restoration of a more uniform market in wool has been one good step in the right direction but has gone only part of the way in answering the question whether the recent wool conference has done any further than to merely meet in an opportunist fashion a situation that demanded immediate action. There are in this city approximately 250 concerns listed as wool dealers and only 11 per cent of this number were recognized as accredited houses to receive government consigned wool. That this arrangement worked out badly for the selected houses is common knowledge and if this division of the wool trade into competing camps should hold good for the new clip wools, the disorderly conditions of 1934 are likely to be repeated. This manner of handling the wool clip which apparently offered superior advantages to a selected few defeated its intended purpose. Some way out will be found and the best minds of the market are giving the situation full consideration. But it is rather too much to hope that a satisfactory and permanent solution of the problems afflicting the wool trade has been fully achieved.

Returning to more basic considerations, the outlook for the use of virgin wool this year can be regarded as much more promising than a year ago. Decreased intensity in the aggregate demand for year to date might seem to indicate some slackening in the high rate of manufacturing and yet other facts point to a continuance of satisfactory mill operations for the next

month or two. The influence of mixed goods flooding the men's wear market seems to have passed, consequently there are reasons for believing that the consumption of virgin wool this year will greatly exceed that of a year ago.

Dealers in the raw material have very generally regarded wool as a by-product of the meat industry and this was brought clearly into the limelight in the address of Chief Petrie of the Cattle and Sheep Section of the A. A. A. at the recent annual convention of the National Wool Growers Association. Said Mr. Petrie: "There has been a decided shift from sheep production to lamb production, that is, from a wool to a meat basis. In 1934 lambs and yearlings constituted over 96 per cent of the total sheep slaughtered." If this shift of sheepmen to a mutton type of animal is anything more than temporary, a decreasing trend in staple fine wool production in the United States seems obvious. Smaller clips averaging a lower wool grade seems obvious, in which case growers will have to look to the production of meat rather than to high wool prices to furnish proper return on the capital investment. Consequently, it may be anticipated, added Mr. Petrie, "that wool prices in the next decade would be lower than in the past decade."

Sales at the several Australasian wool centers in February eased off somewhat, but did not show the expected material weakness. Prices on crossbreeds at Wanganui and other New Zealand centers and of merinos at Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane were generally firm, though favoring the buyer slightly. Offerings of wool at the New Zealand centers were very generally restricted because the growers, not satisfied with the prices prevailing, held back their wools. In general, clearances at all the sales were good but a slightly downward price trend was obvious.

The best barometer of the foreign fine wool situation is the Bradford 64s warp top which at the beginning of March had fallen to the low price of the year at 23¾ pence. Conversely, our domestic fine top situation is firm. Prices on the finer grades have not been affected by the nominal adjustment of domestic wool values. There seems no reason why consumers should expect lower prices on current wool basis and consequently manufacturers of standard tops have not changed their quotations. Meanwhile, worsted spinners are awaiting developments which are coming along in a very promising fashion from the knitting end of the industry. Knitters are buying much more freely, though confining their purchases to nearby requirements on which they are asking quick shipment. Long-term contracts have been thrown into the discard which is not detrimental to the spinners who prefer a streamline connection between producers and consumers, thus preventing surplus stocks at either end.

With the Women's Auxiliaries

The President's Greetings to State and Local Auxiliaries

GREETINGS and congratulations upon the splendid success and achievements attained during the past year and my sincere good wishes for a successful year to come.

The man of today stands upon a higher eminence, has a broader outlook, possesses greater resources and is better trained for life than those who have preceded him. He is the heir of all ages. He stands upon the shoulders of all past generations, and all have gained through their struggle for liberty; all their achievements in science, arts, literature, government, education and commerce are his. With this great inheritance comes a correspondingly great responsibility. Civilization advances because men learn from the experiences of others. We are living in an age of both theory and practice and the theory that can not be practically applied is of little value. All efforts today should be directed towards teaching us how to live in a higher, broader, nobler way than we have ever lived before.

There are three kinds of organizations in the world: We have those who live entirely in the past and those who live just for today. Neither of these is of very great value. But the third group is different. It is grateful for its rich heritage that may be used today for a better tomorrow. The National, State, and Local Auxiliaries are members of this group.

Building of new organizations will be the aim of the Executive Committee during the coming year, not merely manning them with officers but peopling them with enthusiastic leaders and members, creating a vital program and devising a wise method for its execution.

In the United States there are



MRS. J. R. ELIASON,
of Salt Lake City, Utah,
new President of the Women's Auxiliary to
the National Wool Growers Association.
Mrs. Eliason is a charter member of the organization and has been a very ardent and loyal worker on its behalf. She also serves as President of the Utah State Auxiliary.

some fifteen thousand women's clubs organized with a membership of eight thousand women, all in pursuit of higher learning together with social advancement. In building successful state organizations we are instrumental in formulating an educational program together with an advertising campaign, wool exhibits, and fashion shows; we are especially interested in the advancement made by both state and local organizations.

Our Executive Committee will endeavor to prepare for you suggestive programs pertaining to the problems of today as they affect the sheep industry, stressing the study of legislation, production, economics, finance, advertising, and social activities. Henry Ford says,

Material for this page should be sent to
Mrs. Ella I. Livingston, National Press Correspondent, 241 East South Temple Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

"A man who has ceased to learn is old, whether he is twenty or seventy." If we are seeing every thing today as we saw it a year ago, if we find nothing new to say, no new interests in our organizations, then we are growing old. Our aim must be to educate ourselves, then teach others. Our future will depend on how earnestly we seize every opportunity that comes our way and how earnestly we use it after we have seized it.

I would suggest in our club work we give some study and thought to club ethics. Possibly ten minutes time on our programs could be given to these topics for discussion:

- A. What do club ethics require?
What do they forbid?
A president's responsibility to her club, to the state auxiliary, to the national auxiliary.
Her obligation to answer promptly all letters and questionnaires.
The obligation of every club woman to create public opinion favorable to all movements looking towards the betterment of the industry.
Development of the sense of responsibility in every club member.
Club ethics as expressed in "A Collect for Club Women."
How can the right spirit be kept in a club?
A club conscience.
The golden rule in club life.
The human touch in club work.
- B. Club courtesies.
To local and state officers.
To guests and speakers.
To new members.
Platform courtesies.

These few rules may be simple, but I am sure if we all check ourselves there may be somewhere we can improve our methods, and by study and earnest planning we may reach a higher goal. Success is an elusive thing, and comes through co-operation. May I ask for just that thing, the word we hear so much, the word that means so much, that word cooperation?

Mrs. J. R. Eliason.

Annual Meeting of Idaho Auxiliary

THE fourth annual meeting of the Idaho State Auxiliary was held at Boise on January 12, on the last day of the wool growers' convention. Mrs. Leon Contor, president of the ladies' organization, presided.

Reports from the various parts of the state were made by Mrs. C. W. Coiner of Twin Falls, Mrs. Walter C. Little of Emmett, Mrs. F. S. Gedney of Mountain Hone, Mrs. Carl Rudeen of Pocatello, and Mrs. Byron Telford of Idaho Falls.

At noon on Friday, the 11th, all of the visiting ladies were entertained at a luncheon, followed by bridge. Theater parties were also enjoyed during the meeting days.

The Washington Convention

THE eleventh annual convention of the Auxiliary to Washington Woolgrowers met on January 17-18 at Yakima, Washington, with the President, Mrs. W. A. Roberts, presiding.

The meeting was called to order at ten o'clock. The invocation was given by our first National President, Mrs. Harlan Hill. A very interesting program followed. An address by our State President, Mrs. W. A. Roberts, was given in which she stressed the need of interesting new members and their need to study and educate themselves in regard to the uses of wool and lamb, that they might pass this information on to others. Mrs. S. O. Stewart, our National President, made a plea for increased membership and that we ourselves learn the worth and value of our own products.

Mr. O. M. Plummer gave us a very interesting address in which he stressed the need for women to use more wool and showed how only a few inches in the length of a dress can make our industry prosper. He

also told of the experiment which has been carried on by the National Live Stock and Meat Board on twenty-five people who were under the care of the Rush Medical school. They gave these people a diet which contained all the lean meat they could eat three times a day. One woman who was five feet two inches tall and weighed two hundred and five pounds, one year later weighed one hundred and twenty-five pounds and was able to pass all health tests. He emphasized the need of teaching our slim young girls the danger of anemia.

A very interesting talk was given by Miss Margaret Smith of the Junior College, about conditions in Germany last year when she was there.

Mr. Warner M. Buck of the United States Department of Agriculture showed a very interesting film of the steps in the manufacture of wool from fleece to the finished product.

Mrs. Emile Robert gave the report from Chapter One, telling of the activities and program of the Yakima ladies. Mrs. Horace White gave the report for the Goldendale Auxiliary. They are one year old and have a membership of twenty-five. They have made wool flowers and have taken orders for camp quilts. Mrs. Jaussaud of Walla Walla also gave a report.

Mrs. Searles of Leavenworth exhibited canned mutton and told us how she prepared it.

Mrs. Melvin Fell and Mrs. Mac Hoke from Oregon told of their state convention at Heppner. They said there were 75 out and that they had a very fine program with many interesting talks about the sheep industry.

The article in the Constitution in regard to membership was amended to read as follows:

Women who are actively in or affiliated with the wool and sheep industry, or whose husbands, fathers or brothers are active in the industry or members of the Washington Wool Growers Association are eligible to membership.

For the entertainment of our

guests, there was a luncheon, two dances and a banquet. We had a very large and enthusiastic attendance at all the meetings. The afternoons were left free for the ladies to attend the men's meeting and many took advantage of the opportunity.

Ethel M. Lenzie,
Corresponding Secretary.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

MRS. PARLEY A. DANSIE, *Chairman*

Tests to Determine the Kind of Fiber Used

1. Appearance. Study fabrics made of the fine textile fibers and learn to distinguish them by appearance.

2. Feel.

- (a) Wool feels warm and springy.
- (b) Cotton, dead and lifeless.
- (c) Linen, cool and leathery.
- (d) Silk, smooth, slippery, and soft, if unweighted.
- (e) Rayon, harsher and stiffer than silk.

3. Biting.

- (a) Wool is gritty when ground between the teeth.
- (b) Cotton crushes in roughish ball.
- (c) Silk crushes between teeth, but holds together.
- (d) Rayon is easily bitten to pieces.
- (e) Linen crushes into a smooth, slippery ball and is more easily bitten to pieces than cotton.

4. Burning.

- (a) Wool burns slowly with the odor of burning feathers, leaving a black ash in the form of a ball.
- (b) Silk, slowly, with odor and ash similar to wool.
- (c) Cotton, quickly, the thread spreading as it burns.
- (d) Linen, more slowly than cotton, and ends stand erect instead of spreading as cotton.
- (e) Rayon, burns quickly with a flash, giving off a vegetable odor.

5. To separate wool from cotton. Add one tablespoon of household lye to a pint of water. Heat to boiling point, using granite vessel, and immerse sample to be tested. Wool will be completely dissolved in a few minutes, the cotton remaining unchanged.

6. Test for silk and its adulterants.

- (a) For weighting with tin or iron. Burn sample. If heavily weighted, it will burn slowly, often with difficulty and retain its shape.

(Continued to page 31)

Lamb Market Conditions and Prices

Spring Lamb Contracting in Western Areas

THE Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture makes the following report on contracts and feed conditions in the early lamb sections of the West, for the week ending March 2:

In California precipitation during January exceeded the mean of the last 39 years by 11 per cent, which was considered very favorable for pastures, ranges and the forthcoming new spring lamb crop, with more than the usual number of rainy days. During the last few days of February, the two main interior valleys had a very copious, gentle rain, ranging from one and one-half inches to three inches, as reported by the Weather Bureau over ten representative interior stations. The early lambs are getting a good start with prospects of good feed. Conditions should improve rapidly with continued warm weather.

Lamb contracting in California got under way vigorously during the last week of January, eased off early in February and improved at mid-February. In the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys it is estimated that around 250,000 spring lambs have been contracted by local and midwestern buyers for future delivery. Possibly 25,000 lambs were contracted at \$10, f.o.b. main-line points for March 15-31 delivery on a fat basis in San Joaquin Valley, with no percentage stipulated, the major portion for use in the San Francisco Bay district. The remainder of those contracted ranged from \$8.50 to \$9 per hundredweight for April 15 to May 15 delivery; a large part at \$9 per hundred f.o.b. main-line points. Buying has been unusually widespread. The major packers, Los Angeles and San Francisco buyers, and midwestern shippers have been spasmodically active.

In the Imperial Valley the estimated number of spring lambs is about 24,000. A few offers were made three weeks ago at \$10 f.o.b. for March delivery, but these were rejected by growers. Probable movement will begin about March 15 toward Los Angeles and San Diego.

In the Yuma Valley there are about 20,000 shipping lambs. There has been no recent contracting, but early reports indicate a few bands had \$10 bids for March delivery. Most of these lambs usually move to the Pacific Coast.

In Arizona the early movement of spring lambs from the Salt River Valley will undoubtedly start two to three weeks later

than under normal conditions. The desert ranges being unusually good, the bulk of the lambs usually carried on pastures have been moved out to the green desert ranges. Possibly 12,000 to 15,000 lambs will be shipped to midwestern livestock markets in ample time for the Easter trade. The estimated number for April and May movement will probably reach 65,000 head.

Chicago

WHAT the lamb market needs is the services of a competent apologist. During February the two other major branches of the market enjoyed a veritable boom; lambs adhered to the same rut, actually uncovering low prices for the year on the worst slump, from which mild recovery occurred. Killers referred them to the twin goats, wool and a dressed lamb market, one comatose, the other addicted to fighting spells.

Top cattle went to \$13.95; top hogs to \$9.50, or \$11.25, with the tax added, which represents cost to processors. The best lambs could do at the high spot was \$9.20 and that promptly flitted, in fact the \$9 quotation was ephemeral, a large share of the month's crop going over the scales at Chicago at \$8.25@8.65 per hundredweight. Unhandicapped by a tax, lambs should have been equal to a more satisfactory performance. At the corresponding period of 1934, top lambs sold at \$10@10.15. The time-honored bogey of minus margins on the turnover has been used in an explanatory way, but feeders are far from satisfied as they count net proceeds to find that they have not been recouped to the extent of a somewhat onerous feed bill. Blame cannot be attributed to poundage as slaughter was less, on a numerical basis, than last year at the same period and weight was deficient, a large percentage of supply showing low yields. Now that government sheep are out of the way, slaughter figures will be more accurate.

The winter market has been a decided disappportionment, as, instead of the common price pivoting around \$9, the actual figure was considerably lower, as the proportion of \$8 to \$8.50 short-fed lambs was large. Had Colorado and Nebraska crowded the February market, results would probably have been even worse. Beef supply was substantially less than a year ago and a semifamine developed in pork, so that lamb should have had an opportunity to get to the ultimate consumer.

Somewhat significant is the disparity between prices of dressed lamb and other meats. Lamb normally has a premium, on this occasion it was penalized. Based on Chicago wholesale prices late in February, common to choice beef carcasses retailed in a range of \$10.50 to \$18 per hundred, contrasted with \$6 to \$11 at the corresponding time last year; pork loins sold at \$17.50 to \$21 per hundred, against \$12 to \$13.50 and lamb at \$14 to \$17.50, compared with \$14 to \$16 a year ago. Mutton wholesaling at \$8 to \$11 this year, cost \$5 to \$8 a year ago. Obviously something is wrong somewhere, but the Senegambian in the wood pile has not been definitely located, the only alibis available being wool and the dressed market.

While cattle and hog markets were scoring new high levels since away back when, lambs actually experienced a setback. There may be precedence for cattle and fresh pork outselling lambs, but searching the records for it would be a tedious task.

All through February, in fact the winter season, the main purpose of processors has seemed to be to wipe the \$9 lamb quotation off the board. That it was reasonably successful, the records show. Early in February \$9 to \$9.10 was paid, followed by a slump to \$8.50@8.65, the lowest level of the year. At one time

medium and even common kinds sold on an out-of-line basis, measured by actual value, arousing feeders' ire and prompting them to market low-dressing stock; subsequently this was remedied and a reasonable premium was paid for anything worth \$8.50 up, but the hammer was incessantly and vigorously applied to the price list. The difference between \$8.50 and \$9 meant a loss, or breaking even on the feeding operation.

During the second week the \$9 quotation was restored on the smallest run early in January, but its term was brief, as the slight advance started a movement which set prices back to \$8.25@8.65. Feeders cut supply again and once more the \$9 quotation butted into the game. On such breaks killers were invariably fortified by a large number of "directs"; much of the time the top was pegged at \$8.75, shipping orders being essential to breaking over that barrier. When quality was deficient the price moved up a peg or to; a crop of good lambs knocked it down. Several spots developed during the last half of the month on which \$8.25 to \$8.60 took the bulk, a sprinkling selling at \$7.75 to \$8. On the last round 25 cents was grudgingly put on, the \$9 quotation bobbing up again after an exclusion period of two weeks. Shorn lambs were appraised about \$1 under woolskins, or \$7.50 to \$7.75 for fresh and \$8.25 for fall shorn stock. Bulk of the feeding lambs taken to the country cost \$7@7.50; fat ewes selling largely at \$4.50@5.25.

This, in brief, is the history of the February market and it furnished nothing to brag about from the viewpoint of the feeder. It was an off-again-on-again trade. In-between grades fluctuated more widely than top lambs, varying as much

as 75 cents per hundred on short runs when killers were under the necessity of buying for numbers, the tendency being to spread prices between condition and lack of it.

Feeders took lambs in a range of \$5.25 to \$7.50, according to quality and weight. They were free buyers, mainly on Michigan account, and had access to a large number of westerns put out on farm-feeding contracts last fall and either starved or indifferently fed, many of them weighing less than when moved. Killers took everything with a decent meat covering.

The dressed market fluctuated wildly, especially at the Atlantic seaboard, prices varying \$1 to \$2 per hundred within a few days. Sharp advances in retail prices of all other meats should have put lamb in strong distributive position, but it did not work out that way. Mutton sold well at all times.

Colorado feeders who had been dallying with the market previously began loading heavily late in March, expanding Denver receipts and making that point the pivotal center for the rest of the season. Visible supply in California and western Nebraska was ample at that stage, but Iowa had been closely cleared and native lambs had almost disappeared. Indiana contract lambs were moved freely in February; Ohio will not be a serious contender, and Michigan holdings, going in late, will not be ready for some time. The danger lies in collision between the tail end of the Colorado run and the advance guard of California's spring crop, strong in numbers and in the best condition for several years. Eastern killers expect to draw on this supply source from the middle of March onward, prices paid on the Pacific Coast warranting expectation of a higher market during the latter part of the season. There may be favorable augury in the fact that the sheephouse talent is enveloped in gloom of the opaque variety. Nothing favorable is expected from pelt credits; scarcity of other meats may stimulate demand for lamb, as a

turning point invariably develops and the fact that lamb has not been getting its desserts all winter is not open to discussion. In any event favorable price developments are not expected in March unless the stage gets a new setting. Easter comes too late this year to exert a boosting influence.

All this is not calculated to prop the feeder lamb market next fall. Of course, many things may happen meanwhile, especially with respect to feed cost. A large acreage is going into rough feeds and a good corn crop is possible, despite threatened chinch bug ravages, especially in Iowa and Illinois, but corn cribs will be empty next fall, necessitating early inroads into the new crop. Scarcity of other meats does not seem to influence demand for lamb favorably, what has happened recently indicating that it has a market peculiarly all its own, and a restricted market at that. Consumers are paying prices in line with other meats, for which responsibility must be put at the door of the final distributor.

A major and reasonable criticism is the frequent narrow spread between medium and choice lambs. Persisted in, this buying policy will drive finished stock out of circulation, especially during regularly recurring periods of high cost feed. Whatever profit the fed lamb crop has yielded this winter accrued to the short feeder. Cattle feeders have made more money than ever before in trade history, not excepting the war period, margins ranging from \$4 to \$8 per hundred, and there has been no corresponding curtailment in beef production.

On February 28 and March 1 the lamb market had a 50-cent advance. One Colorado consignment made \$9.35 on the 1st, and the upper crust of the crop brought \$9@9.25. Dressed market advanced \$1 per undred late this week, with the best clearance in weeks. Beef and pork have attained such high retail levels that lamb appears to be coming into its own.

J. E. Poole.

Denver

PRICES were very uneven on fat lambs at Denver and all other livestock markets during the month of February, just ended. Closing sales were generally 15 cents to 25 cents lower than those made during the latter part of January, while feeder lambs also showed a slight decline. Ewes, however, were scarce during the entire month and sold 25 cents to 40 cents higher at the close than at the opening of the month.

Choice Colorado fed lambs brought up to \$8.75, freight paid, at the beginning of February, which price was the peak of the month at Denver. Other sales were made early in the month at \$8.50 to \$8.65 with Utahs, Idahos, and Wyomings at \$7.75 to \$8.50. Late in the month sales were numerous at \$7.50 to \$8.25 for western lambs, with fed Colorados selling on the closing session at \$8.60 and \$8.65.

The first consignment of spring lambs of the season arrived during the last week in the month and sold at \$10.50, a half dollar higher than the first springers here late in March last year.

Feeder lambs sold early in the month at \$6.50 to \$7.35, but few arrived late. Quotations ranged from \$6.25 to \$7 for the desirable feeders late in the month.

Ewes were scarce and in good demand during the entire month. A good grade sold early in the month at \$4.25 to \$4.75 while choice ewes went over the scales late in the month at \$4.50 to \$5.25 and a few strictly choice ewes sold at \$5.35.

Efforts of Colorado and Nebraska lamb feeders, who have been in Chicago recently in conference with packers and officials of the National Live Stock and Meat Board in an effort to boost the consumption of lamb, are expected to be successful as such campaigns have nearly always been successful in the past, and those who have lambs in their feed lots are hoping for better prices during the balance of the season.

At prices prevailing the latter part

of February lamb feeders were losing from 75 cents to \$1 or more a head on their lambs and it would take only a very small boost in values to turn this loss into a profit.

W. N. Fulton.

Kansas City

FEBRUARY lamb prices closed 25 cents lower than the January close, 25 cents lower than the high point of the month, but 35 cents higher than the low spot. The price movement during the month covered a 60-cent range, or from \$8.15, the low spot, to \$8.75, the high spot. The prevailing top prices were \$8.25 and \$8.50. The February average was lower than the January average. Average condition of the lambs was below normal. Offerings carried enough weight but finish was not much in evidence. Most of the supply came from Kansas and Oklahoma wheat fields and showed growth more than finish.

The main upheaval in prices came at the beginning of the second week. On February 11, the top was \$8.15 and the next day it went to \$8.75. Thus in a two-day period the extreme high and low were uncovered. On other days the variation was from \$8.25 to \$8.65. On the close \$8.50 was paid. The buying side was in control of the situation most of the time. Between liberal purchases made at mountain markets and liberal receipts of fed lambs in Chicago from Iowa and the northern corn belt, the big packers had close control of the situation. However, the central and northern corn belt have marketed the bulk of their fed lambs and from now on killers will have to look to the feeding sections of the central western and plains states for supplies.

Iowa this winter fed more lambs than ever before. On January 1, that state reported 1,504,000 sheep on farms or 171,000 more than on the same date in 1934. Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma are the four central western states that reported increases. The Kansas and

Oklahoma increase represented feeding on wheat pasturage and the Missouri and Iowa increases were in dry lot feeding. Iowa imported 300,000 lambs from Montana alone, compared with 68,395 from that state in the preceding year. Most of these lambs were on a share feeding basis. Lambs on Kansas and Oklahoma wheat pasturage, for the most part, represent ownership of stock and rental of pasturage. Without doubt winter wheat saved the lamb feeder from being in a critical situation in the Southwest. Owners of wheat fields are clamoring for the removal of lambs by March 15. There has been a heavy movement in the past ten days. Some have gone to feed yards for a short finish and others went to markets.

The middle of February shearing got under way, but it was checked by a cold snap that came February 23, and lasted to the 27th. Owing to the cold most of the shorn lambs were rushed to markets at prices that ranged from \$7.50 to \$8. Early March, if temperatures are mild, will doubtless see shearing renewed as some lambs are heavy and wool is not much of a buying incentive. It is anticipated that late March offerings of fed lambs will have been shorn.

February brought the first milk fat lambs of the season. They were in 68 to 78-pound weights and brought \$9.50 to \$10.50. By late March they will be offered more freely. Arizona will begin shipping new crop lambs by the last of March and as Easter is late this year the early demand for springers will probably show good volume by early April.

A great assortment on limited volume, was a fair way to characterize the mutton supply for the month. Choice handy-weight fed yearlings made \$7.75; medium to fair \$6.75 to \$7. Shorn yearlings which predominated late in the month brought \$6 to \$6.50. Two year old wethers sold at \$6 to \$6.50 and aged wethers \$4.50 to \$5.75. Most of the good fat ewes brought \$4.75 to \$5.25, with fair kinds at \$3.75 to \$4.50. Demand was suf-

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ficient to care for all the mutton classes offered.

Trade in feeding lambs was mostly in finishing classes at prices that ranged from \$6.50 to \$7.50, with some inferior quality thin lambs at \$5.50 to \$6.25. There was a broad inquiry for good young breeding ewes. The supply was limited and in odd bunches that had to be picked up from various sources. With western flocks fairly clear of a large per cent of the oldest ewes, the young ewes are not for sale. If good breeding ewes are available there will be a liberal restocking movement in the western edge of the corn belt this summer.

It is the general opinion that fat lambs will be higher in March than in February. The opinion is based on the fact that lambs are selling lower per pound than fat cattle or fat hogs. Lambs are selling around \$8.50, choice to prime steers \$13 to \$13.50 and hogs around \$9, exclusive of a \$2.25 tax which actually makes pork on a hog basis of \$11.25. Lambs are lower than a year ago, but hogs and cattle are 50 per cent higher. It is true that there have been larger decreases in hogs and cattle than in sheep, but the consumer, in times of rising prices, turns his buying to the lowest priced meats. It has been several years since lambs were lower per pound than fat cattle or hogs.

February sheep receipts were 85,011, compared with 128,967, in the same month last year and the smallest in the second month of any year since 1903. In the two months arrivals were 211,420, or 77,000 less than last year and the smallest for the two months' period since 1925.

C. M. Pipkin.

St. Joseph

SHEEP receipts for February were 94,554, compared with 66,858 in January and 91,094 in February a year ago. Offerings during the month were largely of the fed variety, though around 25,000 head came from Kansas and Oklahoma wheat pastures.

The lamb market was very uneven throughout the month and closing prices are strong to 25 cents higher. At the close of January best fed lambs sold at \$8.75, with others down to \$8.00. There was a weak undertone the greater part of the month, but strength was shown on late days, the top advancing to \$9 on the extreme close. Choice 93 and 94-pound lambs sold at \$9, with bulk of sales \$8.75@8.90. Kansas and Oklahoma lambs usually sold 25 @50 cents, and sometimes more, below top quotations. Clipped lambs sold \$7.25@8 during the month, with the latter price quotable on the close.

Aged sheep closed mostly steady, except ewes, which are around 25 cents higher, best selling at \$5.50 late. Yearlings ranged \$6.50@7.75, twos \$5.75@6.75, and old wethers \$4.50@5.75 during the month, with prices on the close quotable at the higher figures.

H. H. Madden.

Omaha

FAT lambs didn't get very far either way in the sluggish trading that marked the month of February, although by virtue of a belated rally they closed with prices at the peak for the month. Prior to that final flurry, however, the smallest receipts for a February since 1910 had failed to stimulate matters. Receipts were 124,952, the smallest for the month since 1910.

Losses suffered in the middle of the month were erased by the late recovery, and final prices were 15 @ 25 cents higher than those in force at the end of January. Prices fluctuated in a narrow range during the month, hanging close to the \$8.50 mark as a rule. At the close the bulk sold at \$8.75@8.90, with a single load to an order buyer at \$9 and another at \$8.95.

Demand was indifferent for the most part during the month, except at times when buying for numbers induced a little strength. Anything like liberal numbers, however, was

bearish, and several upturns which looked promising were nipped in the bud by swelling receipts. Broader shipper demand was a major factor in strengthening an otherwise weak trade.

It was a month of dickering, as salesmen and buyers strove for the advantage and occasions were rare when an agreement could be reached until shortly before the close of the daily sessions.

Lambs from the big feeding areas came in their customarily good finish, but at times there was an influx of poorly finished lambs, whose feeding term was cut short because of the prohibitive high cost of feed. Pressure was heavy on that sort and they sold at a differential of half dollar or more under well-finished kinds.

Demand for feeders held up well, although there were intervals of sluggishness. The outlet was easily broad enough to take care of available supplies. There was little fluctuation in prices, although final quotations represented a decline of 25 cents under January's close. Fleshier and more desirable kinds found a ready outlet at prices mostly from \$7 to \$7.50. The high for the month was \$7.75, paid early for some that were real choice. Lighter kinds moved between \$6 and \$7. Real light and common kinds were more or less of a drug on the market and sold down to around the \$3 level. Nearby feed lot operators were taking more interest late in the month, and taking out a few lambs after being inactive earlier in the season. Shearing lambs began to move late in the month, also, a fair number going out at \$7.50@7.85.

Fat ewes continued to meet a good reception, although advances were not as rapid as in January. The month's gain was 50 cents, a load selling late at \$5.65, the highest paid for fat ewes here since May 1930. Sales were mostly from \$5.50 downward. Load lots were few and far between, on contrast with liberal arrivals at this time a year ago. There was limited movement of bred ewes to the country at \$5@5.40 for good solid-mouthed kinds.

H. F. Lee.

With the Women's Auxiliaries

(Continued from page 26)

- (b) For weighting with substance other than metal. Wash sample with warm water and soap. Starch, tallow and similar substances will dissolve, leaving sample thin and sleazy.
- (c) For adulteration with cotton, rayon, and wild silk. Use lye test described above. Cotton and artificial silk remain unchanged; silk dissolves completely, though more slowly than wool. Wild silk will require possibly 15 minutes for complete dissolving.

7. To distinguish linen from cotton.

- (a) By breaking and burning tests already given.
- (b) By weight and feeling. Linen feels cool and leathery.
- (c) Appearance. Linen is nearly one fifth heavier than cotton, and has a natural luster that is not removed by laundering.
- (d) The oil test. Free sample of all dressing by washing thoroughly. Dry. Add a drop of oil and hold to light. Linen threads will appear more transparent than cotton.
- (e) The acid test. Wash sample carefully to remove all dressing, dip in concentrated sulphuric acid for a minute or two, then wash in water and dry on blotting paper. All that remains on the blotting paper is linen, the cotton having been quickly dissolved by the acid.

Chapter Activities

Grant County

THE Grant County Chapter of the Women's Auxiliary to the Oregon Wool Growers Association met at the home of Mrs. Herman Oliver, on February 23, at 2 o'clock, with Mrs. Frank Oliver, president, presiding. During the business meeting plans were discussed for various proposed activities, one of which is to conduct a contest among the members on "The Most Ways Wool Can be Used in the Home." After the close of the business meeting Mrs. Wm. Claflin of Prairie City sang "You'll Remember Me," and "In The Gloaming," which was greatly appreciated by all. A group from the Prairie City unit also entertained hilariously with

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In England—

At the December 1934 Fat Stock Show, Birmingham, the Champion pen went to pure bred Hampshire ewe lambs from the Clifton-Brown flock. Six pens competed for this honor. First three places on pens of cross-bred wethers went to lambs of a Hampshire cross.

In America—

At the 1934 Los Angeles Fat Stock Show, first prize on carlot fat lambs went to Hampshire cross-bred lambs. At the recent Ogden Show, two out of first three places, carlot fat lambs, won by Hampshire cross-bred lambs, and reported as under closest competition in the 16 years of the Ogden Show.

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several numbers, finishing with a skit that made every one forget the depression for the time being. It was announced that Mrs. Herman Oliver, president of the Women's Auxiliary of Oregon, had been honored by being elected first vice president of the National Auxiliary at the recent national convention at Phoenix, Arizona. There were 46 members and 24 visitors present, with eight new members enrolled. After the entertainment a dainty luncheon was served which closed a most enjoyable afternoon.

Mrs. Wm. White,

Corresponding Secretary.

Umatilla County

THE Umatilla County Chapter of the Women's Auxiliary to Oregon Wool Growers met on February 9, at the home of Mrs. Mac Hoke (at Pendleton), with Mrs. Frank Chapman presiding. During the business session, plans for the cooking school this chapter is organizing were discussed. Mrs. Percy Folsom was elected to serve as president for the ensuing term. There were seventeen members and one visitor present with four new members enrolled. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Walter Smith on March 9.

Mrs. T. G. Elliott, Secretary.

Salt Lake City

THE Salt Lake Chapter of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Utah Wool Growers held its monthly meeting and social at the Belvedere Lounge, Monday, February 11, at 2 p. m. Mrs. Wm. Oswald, vice president, presided. Community singing was led by Mrs. O. R. Ivory. A report of the national convention at Phoenix, Arizona, was given by Mrs. J. R. Eliason. Mrs. Tom Jones gave a report from the Salt Lake Music Council. A one-act play, "Ashes of Roses," was read by Miss Maurine Whipple. Vocal solos were given by Mrs. Vera Clayton, accompanied by Mrs. Lucile Ross Bowen.

Hostesses were Mrs. E. J. Kearns, Mrs. L. E. Nelson, and Mrs. McKinley Oswald.

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Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 10)

than sheep in this section. There aren't enough trappers. If they would put a bounty on them, they could get rid of most of them.

John Bigler.

Vernal

The weather here is good (February 28), but the feed is very poor. These conditions are not so good as in the previous two or three years. A larger number of range sheep are being fed this winter. Hay in the stack is \$16 per ton.

About the same number of ewes were bred to lamb this year as were last year. More ewe lambs were kept over last fall. There are better ages in our ewe bands compared to three or four years ago.

There has been no increase in the number of coyotes in this section of the country.

Kenneth S. Bennion.

NEVADA

About three weeks of very mild weather and one week moderately cold was the temperature record. Precipitation has been occasional, but not heavy at any place, though snows were heavier than a year ago. Livestock feeding is nearing the end in places, as vegetation is farther advanced than usual. Livestock have wintered in fair to good condition,

and have consumed moderately small quantities of feed. There is enough moisture in most soils for spring range needs.

CALIFORNIA

Seasonal to high temperatures prevailed, and were favorable for livestock and ranges. Light to moderate precipitation occurred over parts of the state, being heaviest over the middle and northern portion. The last few days brought still further rains to these sections and March 1, in southern parts. Ranges are in good to excellent condition generally, as soil moisture conditions are more favorable than last year everywhere. Vegetation is mostly somewhat ahead of average.

Woodland

We have plenty of rain, warm weather, and lots of feed (February 27). This means more fat lambs than for several years, which have been contracted for 9 and 10 cents. We have a larger number than usual of sheep getting feed. The price of baled hay is \$12, most of which has been cleaned up.

I think a much larger number of ewes were bred to lamb in 1935, compared with one year ago. We also kept over a greater number of ewe lambs last fall, in fact, many thousand have been brought into California the last 18 months. The average age in the ewe flocks is much younger.

Through the work of government trappers as well as local men, the number of coyotes is somewhat less this year.

F. N. Bullard.

OREGON

Mostly mild weather prevailed, excepting only a few pretty cold nights. Precipitation occurred occasionally, and was ample over the western portion, but east of the divide more moisture is needed for all purposes. Spring lambs are reported thriving as a rule. Livestock in general are in fair to good condition and making the usual early spring gains in the western portion.



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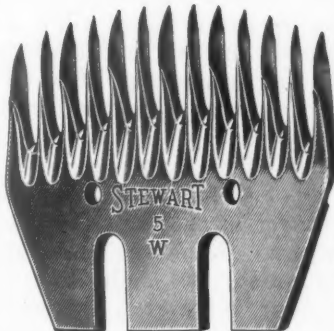
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Long Creek

We have had a very mild winter up to date (February 27), though not as mild as last winter. We have had to feed most of the time, but not as heavily as usual. Our hay is all grain or meadow hay. There was very little hay sold or bought in this locality, but it was priced around \$6 per ton I think.

The number of sheep on feed is about the same. There will be about the usual number lambing this year, beginning around April first. There was about the same percentage of ewe lambs kept last fall; quite a number of old ewes were sold, but not all of them. I believe the bands are better in age than for the past few years. We haven't been able to keep as many ewe lambs as we would have kept, so our ewes got older each year. I expect the average age would be about four years now.

I can't see much difference in the number of coyotes. If there were a bounty we could keep them down and it would be a lot cheaper to have a man at each post office pay the bounty and have the whole carcass brought in and burned. Then there couldn't be any bootlegging except right along the line where it might be county or state, and what there was there wouldn't hurt.

Roy Harer.

Pendleton

Weather and feed conditions on the range are very good (February 13). They are better than in 1932 and 1933, though not as good as in 1934. The number of range sheep getting feed this winter is smaller than normal. The price for alfalfa hay in the stack is \$8.

Fewer ewes were bred to lamb in 1935 than 1934. About the same number of ewe lambs were kept over last fall. The average age of the ewe flocks is about the same as it was three or four years ago.

Coyotes are more numerous than they were last year. I think this is due to the Bureau of Biological Survey's lack of funds for hunter employment.

Mac Hoke.

Plush

We are having considerable moisture here. The feed is covered by snow (February 12). There has been a lot more moisture this year than the past two. We are feeding a smaller number of sheep. In the Goose Lake section hay in the stack is around \$6. It is scarce in other parts.

There were not so many ewes bred to lamb in 1935 compared with last year. Most of the ewe lambs were sold here this year. There is not much difference in the ages of the ewe bands.

Coyotes are about as thick as usual.

Con Fitzgerald.

Unity

In this part of the country we have no feed on the range until April. We are feeding a smaller number of range sheep. Hay is from \$8 to \$9 per ton in the stack (February 27).

About 10 per cent fewer ewes were bred to lamb in 1935, compared with one year ago. About 25 per cent more ewe lambs were held over last fall. I think the average age of the ewe flocks is about 25 per cent younger than it was three or four years ago.

With no bounty and the low price of furs, coyotes are more numerous than ever.

John Hardman.

Dayville

The range is too cold now for grass, and we have little moisture. Although this is the same condition as we had last February we usually have more moisture at this time (March 2).

We are feeding a 10 per cent smaller number of range sheep this winter. Alfalfa hay in the stack is \$7.

The number of ewes bred to lamb in 1935 is 15 per cent smaller than that of one year ago. Fifty per cent more ewe lambs were kept over last fall for breeding purposes, compared with previous years.

Coyotes are more numerous due to the low price of furs and the lack of Biological Survey funds. I believe that a federal bounty is the only solution for coyotes—no bootlegging scalps across county and state borders. Indians and high school children will get more pups than all trappers.

Gay Brothers.

Shaniko

We are having warm weather and rains. Conditions are 100 per cent better than they have been the last two or three years. We have had more moisture and feed. Alfalfa hay in the stack was selling at from \$9 to \$10 in December, and is now about \$8 to \$9 (March 1).

We bred about the same number of ewes to lamb and the average age in the ewe bands is about the same, with a few extremely old ewes. A few less ewe lambs were kept over last fall for breeding purposes.

Our main loss is through coyotes. No one is trapping them, and few are being killed.

Jim W. Fisher.

La Grande

Weather and feed conditions in eastern Oregon have been exceptionally favorable this winter, with less than the usual rainfall, but with considerable snow in the mountains. There is no winter range here and our average feeding period is about 105 days. Sheep are generally in much better condition than last year. About the usual number of range sheep are being fed this winter, except that a considerable number of lambs have been fed for the market in this valley this winter quite successfully. This was the first time that feeding lambs had been tried in this country, and on the whole the results were satisfactory.

Alfalfa hay is selling for about \$7 in the stack. About the same number of ewes were bred last fall as ordinarily, as this country was affected only slightly by the drouth.

Wages for herders are about 40 dollars per month.

R. J. Green.

WASHINGTON

Seasonal temperatures prevailed, with nothing severe to affect livestock; moisture has been ample everywhere save over parts of the eastern portion. Pastures and grains are making satisfactory improvement generally, though could be improved with more moisture in the eastern portion. Livestock are doing well generally. Grass is making

satisfactory showing over western and middle portions generally. Lambing progressed favorably.

Ellensburg

We are having the mildest winter (February 26), I have seen in many years and the best of grass. Very few sheep were fed until the ewes went into the lambing shed. I saw a band of yearling ewes be-

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tually fat wintering on white sage
and bunchgrass on Saddle Mountain
east of the Columbia River. Hay is
plentiful at \$6 to \$8 per ton in the
stack.

Fewer ewes were bred to lamb
this year. We did not keep more
than the usual number of ewe lambs
last fall; everybody had to have
money and sold the lambs except for
a few fine wools and white-faces.
I think the bulk of our ewes are
from two to six or seven years old.

Coyotes are more numerous than
they were last year because there are
only a few trappers. Pelts are cheap
when wool is cheap, and besides, our
legislation has made no appropri-
ations for this work for the last three
years.

Outside of a few choice clips,
much of our wool is still unsold. But
under present conditions we need
not look for higher prices unless the
foreign markets improve. This is
the same with lamb prices. Low
wool keeps lambs down.

It looks okay on paper to allow
the government-loaned wools to be
sold by the owner at approved prices,
but it will simply let the speculators
come out and pick up the best clips,
and the undesirable heavy shrink-
ing wools will go to the National.
In the mean time the mills can keep
going and the buyers will keep away
from the National until they are
forced to stock up again. I hate to
drift back into the old rut.

K. O. Kohler.

Prosser

We are having about the same
feed and weather conditions that we
have had the last two or three years
at this time, warm days, freezing
nights, and no storms. Due to the
open winter, we are feeding a small-
er number of range sheep. Hay in
the stack is priced at \$8 to \$8.50.

The number of ewes bred to lamb
this year is about the same as a year
ago. As no white-faced lambs are
raised, very few ewe lambs are held
over. In the ewe flocks old ewes

have been heavily culled out for the last two years.

Government trappers are working the year around to eradicate coyotes and have reduced the number we used to have.

Clell Lung.

IDAHO

Temperatures ranged from around normal to somewhat below most of the time, with one notably mild week. The storms were frequent enough, and in some places heavy enough for present needs; but in some sections moisture is needed. Livestock have done well, and lambing is well advanced with favorable weather generally. Moisture has been ample for grains. The consumption of feed has not been exceptional. The weather was mostly fine for outdoor work.

American Falls

Feed and weather conditions on the range show a slight improvement (March 1). They are about the same as they were in 1934, with a little less moisture than in 1933.

Soil moisture is greater than a year ago, but prospects for irrigation water are not too bright in the Snake River system.

We are feeding a larger number of range sheep this winter, with alfalfa hay at \$7 per 422 cubic feet. There is a large carryover in hay.

In many cases, the number of ewes bred to lamb in 1935 is about 20 per cent short of the number last year. There was a larger number of ewe lambs kept over last fall for flock purposes. In this locality the wool clip will be larger, but lambing shorter.

The average age of ewe flocks is much older, but this year's development will place a lot of yearlings in bands.

A greater number of coyotes has resulted from the relaxation in eradication efforts.

W. E. Barkdull.

Georgetown

I think the National Wool Grower is a great benefit to the sheepman.

One point that I think should be solved is the dockage on tags in wool. The wool buyer always docks a certain per cent for tags regardless if they are kept out or not. That is hardly fair to the man that does try to keep his wool clean and free from tags. It really encourages one to put the tags in the good wool. I think it should become a law to forbid tags to be put in the same bag with good wool, and have them put in a separate bag so they could be sold separately.

I think it would be a fine thing to tax each bag of wool ten cents for advertising woolen goods, and I for one am willing to do my part.

Our range conditions are excellent, but we have a larger number of range sheep getting feed (March 1) than in other years. Hay in the stack is \$12 per ton.

Compared with the number one year ago, the number of ewes bred to lamb in 1935 is about 10 per cent less. The number of ewe lambs kept over last fall for replace-

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ments was about the same as in previous years. There are still too many old ewes on account of holding them the last few years.

The low price of furs and the lack of funds to pay trappers have resulted in a greater number of coyotes this year.

Frank Bartschi.

MONTANA

Mild dry weather prevailed, with minor exceptions. Livestock are in fair to good condition. The lower ranges are fair, and mostly without snow covering, but the forage is still dormant. The eastern and middle divisions of the state are especially dry. Winter wheat is good in the west, but there has been little growth elsewhere. Farm flocks are beginning to lamb, favored by good weather. Feeding has not been heavy at any time in any place.

Augusta

Feed and weather conditions on the range are good (February 24). About the same number of range sheep are getting feed this winter. Hay is \$13 in the stack.

We had a few more ewes bred to lamb this year than we had last year, and the number of ewe lambs kept over last fall is a shade better than in previous years. The average age of the ewe flocks is quite a bit older.

We have about the same number of coyotes. Nobody wants to trap unless they can make money at it.

O. F. Bean.

Forsyth

Weather conditions here are good, but feed is a little short (February 15). We are feeding a smaller number of range sheep this winter. Alfalfa hay in the stack is \$10.

There were three fourths as many ewes bred to lamb this year compared to last. Also 25 per cent fewer ewe lambs were kept over last fall for breeding purposes. The average age in the ewe flocks is older than it was three or four years ago.

Barley Brothers.

Stevensville

We are having clear, cold nights, with no feed on the range (February 26). One year ago we never fed our sheep any hay. They grazed on the range all winter. It is different this year, however.

We have 4 per cent fewer breeding ewes than one year ago. We have never kept any ewe lambs back for breeding purposes. Our ewe bands have more aged breeding ewes in them as there is no sale in this territory for them.

We dug out two dens of coyotes here and got 16 pups and one old one, which is helping to keep down coyote numbers.

A. Baumgartner.

Warren

Although the weather is good, we have but little snow and feed is very short (February 1). Hay is about \$10. Some was sold early at \$8.

I think the number of ewes bred is smaller than that of last year. About the same number of ewe lambs were kept for stock ewes. Most of the old ewes were sold to the government, and the age in the bands runs from yearlings to five-year-olds.

Taking into consideration the extra feed the sheepmen had to buy for this winter, I would say none of us in this section will make enough profit to pay interest on our debts.

W. R. Bainbridge.

WYOMING

Mild weather has been decidedly favorable for livestock, and the range has been open through the month generally. However, the range over almost the entire state is the poorest in history, and feed is the scarcest. Livestock are generally in fair to good condition, considering of course the animals retained, which were the best. Livestock have consumed but very little supplemental feed. Where feed has been only fairly plentiful, livestock have done well.

Chugwater

The middle of February brought us a cold spell, but the rest of the month was warm, dry, and windy; in fact the month as a whole has been the driest and warmest on record. Range grass, however, is the shortest in fifteen years. Hay is being shipped in here for \$15 a ton, f. o. b. Chugwater. I estimate that about 10 per cent fewer sheep are being fed this winter.

The number of ewes bred is also about 10 per cent short of that of last year. The average age of the flocks is about the same as it has been in previous years, and we kept about the usual number of ewe lambs last fall for flock replacements.

Frank Bliss.

- INDEX TO - Advertisements

BRANDING LIQUIDS	
Wm. Cooper & Nephews.....	Page 36
Minehart-Traylor Co., Denver.....	31
CAMP WAGONS AND TENTS	
Schaefer Tent & Awning Co., Denver.....	37
Sidney Stevens Implement Co., Ogden, Utah.....	33
COMMISSION FIRMS	
Bodine & Clark, No. Portland, Oregon.....	36
EAR TAGS, BRANDS, EMASCULATORS, ETC.	
American Turpentine & Tar Co., New Orleans (Pinetrel).....	30
W. B. Batchler & Co., Palo Pinto, Texas.....	33
O. M. Franklin Blackleg Serum Co.....	37
J. E. Gibbs, Rock River, Wyo. (Lamb Heaters, etc.).....	30
Intermountain Stamp Works, Salt Lake City.....	31
Parke, Davis & Co. (Nema Worm Capsules).....	33
Salt Lake Stamp Co., Salt Lake City.....	38
HOTELS	
Hotel Utah, Salt Lake City.....	38
MISCELLANEOUS	
Mt. States Tel. and Tel. Co.....	37-38
Paragon Printing Co., Salt Lake City.....	38
Salt Lake Engraving Co., Salt Lake City.....	38
PACKERS	
Armour & Co.....	34
Swift & Co.....	1
SADDLES AND HARNESS	
F. Mueller S. and H. Co., 429 Mueller Bldg., Denver.....	33
Western Saddle Mfg. Co., 1651 Larimer St., Denver.....	38
SHEARING EQUIPMENT	
Chicago Flexible Shaft Co.....	35
SHEEP DOGS	
Geo. A. Reed, Burley, Idaho.....	36
STOCK YARDS	
Chicago Union Stock Yards.....	Cover
Denver Union Stock Yards.....	Cover
Kansas City Stock Yards.....	31
Omaha Union Stock Yards.....	Cover
Salt Lake Union Stock Yards.....	38
TWINE	
Wortendyke Mfg. Co., Richmond, Va.....	35
WOOL	
National Wool Marketing Corporation.....	2 and 3
Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers.....	38
West Unity Woolen Mills, West Unity, Ohio.....	31
BREED ASSOCIATIONS	
American and Delaine Merino, Xenia, Ohio.....	32
American Corriedale, Cheyenne, Wyo.....	32
American Hampshire, Detroit, Mich.....	32
American Rambouillet, Marysville, Ohio.....	32
American Romney Breeders, Corvallis, Ore.....	32
American Shropshire, Lafayette, Indiana.....	32
SHEEP	
RAMBOUILLETS	
W. L. Hammond, Buffalo, Wyo.....	36

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